



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

REFUGEE
STUDIES
CENTRE

Annual Report

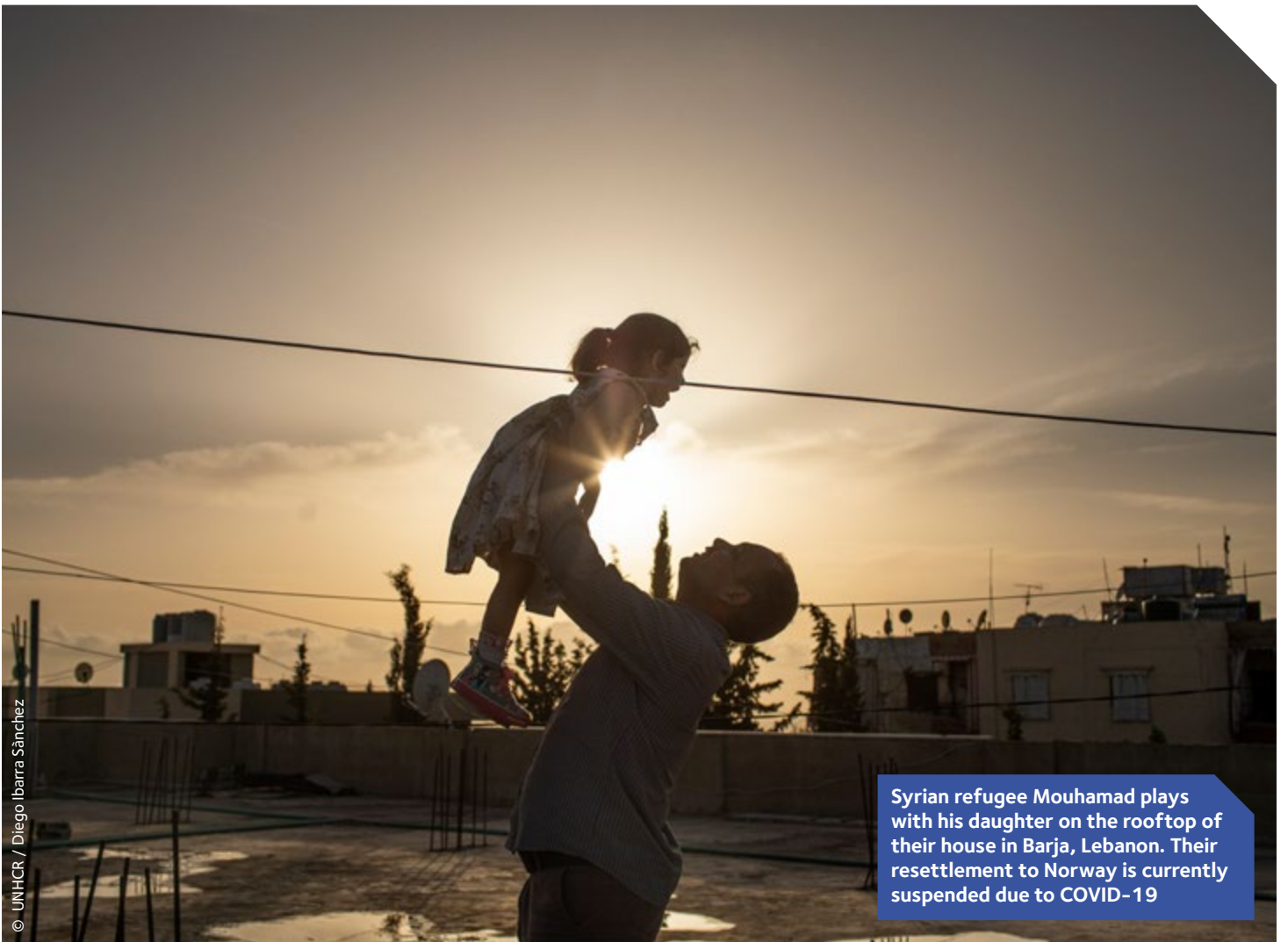
2019–2020



OXFORD
DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Burundian refugee and trainee brass artisan, Elijah, holds freshly cast brass jewellery at a workshop with Bawa Hope in Nairobi, Kenya

© UNHCR / Will Swanson



© UNHCR / Diego Ibarra Sánchez

Syrian refugee Mouhamad plays with his daughter on the rooftop of their house in Barja, Lebanon. Their resettlement to Norway is currently suspended due to COVID-19

Contents

REFUGEE
STUDIES
CENTRE

Director's foreword	3
Our research	4
Refugee-led initiatives at the time of COVID-19 <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	13
Policy and impact	14
Borders and colonial legacies: the refugee regime in the Global South <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	17
A tribute to Gil Loescher <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	18
Studying and learning	20
Practising what you preach: sustainable energy access research in refugee settings <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	25
Alumni retrospectives	26
Food and forced migration <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	28
The private sector and refugee economies <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	30
'Stateless' alternatives to humanitarianism <small>FEATURE ARTICLE</small>	32
Events	34
Outreach	36
Fundraising and development	40
Academic record	41
Income and expenditure	47
Staff and associates	48

Front cover photo: Syrian refugees at Za'atari camp in Jordan attend the first resumption of Friday prayers since the coronavirus pandemic closed the mosques
Cover photo credits: © UNHCR

Compiled by Tamsin Kelk
Production by Oxford University Design Studio



Dame Marina Warner gives the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019 at St Anne's College in October

© RSC



Decorated home in Za'atari camp in Jordan, an extract from the documentary Shelter Without Shelter by Mark E Breeze and Tom Scott-Smith

© Mark E Breeze / University of Oxford

Director's foreword

It will come as little surprise if I say that this year at the RSC has been profoundly shaped by the COVID-19 virus. The spread of the virus led to the university closing its buildings in March, with teaching, administration, seminars and workshops moving online. Amazingly, this profound transition was achieved with great success. Students were still supervised and examined (and produced work of extremely high quality); the weekly seminar series continued (with bigger online audiences than ever); *Forced Migration Review* continued in production; and a stream of high quality publications emerged from our academics. The International Summer School was, unfortunately, a casualty of COVID, but we expect to have it up and running again in July 2021, with a number of adjustments to the new circumstances.

Of course, the disruptions experienced by our Centre were nothing compared to the challenges faced by forced migrants worldwide. COVID-19, despite its ability to strike anyone low, posed the greatest risk to the poor and already vulnerable, to ethnic minorities, and to those without access to quality health care and information. Displaced people, typically members of these groups, often faced the added difficulty of finding protection in a world where national borders became even harder to cross. For those confined to camps, detention centres, or other forms of precarious or sub-standard shelter, the risks of contracting the virus were multiplied. Moreover, the virus restricted the access of forced migrants to assistance in myriad forms.

At the Centre we considered these challenges in large measure by focussing on the agency of refugees. Alexander Betts and Andonis Marden organised a notable Trinity Term weekly seminar series on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of COVID-19. Marie Godin and Evan Easton-Calabria quickly assembled a research project on 'Refugee-Led Initiatives at the Time of COVID-19', with funding from British Academy Special Research Grants. We also added a new section on our website listing and linking to key recent work on the relationship between the virus and forced migration. This year's (online) Elizabeth Colson Lecture in June, by Professor Laura Hammond, picked up the theme by offering an impressive and wide-ranging discussion of mobility and immobility in the shadow of the virus.

Important as it was, COVID-19 did not define all of the work at the Centre this year. Two very large research projects, Alexander Betts' 'Refugee Economics Programme' and Cathryn Costello's 'Refugees are Migrants', each of which involve a team of first-rate researchers, continued to produce numerous publications and events and exercise a profound impact on their different areas of study. Tom Scott-Smith's work on Architectures of Displacement produced an award-winning film entitled, 'Shelter Without Shelter'. Our Martin James Lecturer, Catherine Briddick joined with Cathryn Costello and a group of international researchers to launch a new

project, 'Undoing Discriminatory Borders', looking at the unequal distribution of migration opportunities. This was particularly timely work in a year in which the Black Lives Matter campaign has rightly brought to public prominence the pervasiveness of structural racism.

During the year, we also welcomed two new academics on to our staff. Anne Irfan joined us as a departmental lecturer. As a historian, Anne brings a new disciplinary focus to the RSC, and her work on colonial legacies boosts the range and relevance of our research. Dilar Dirik, our Joyce Pearce fellow (shared with Lady Margaret Hall), also brings new areas of focus to the Centre. She is conducting innovative research on Kurdistan and refugee political organisation.

As ever, the RSC has also been a source of events and courses that attract people from the UK and across the world to Oxford. Obviously, our MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and our doctoral programme are central to the Centre's influence and identity. Over the last year, we have been inspired by the work and passion of our highly diverse cohorts of students, and their resilience and good-heartedness in the midst of the changes brought about by COVID. Our Visiting Fellows once again brought an injection of new ideas into the Centre. Our Barbara Harrell-Bond lecturer this year was the eminent literary scholar, Dame Marina Warner. To a packed hall at St Anne's College in November, Dame Marina spoke about her 'Stories in Transit' project.

During the year, Isabelle Aires and Phil Dines left the Centre to work on other projects. We thank them for their work. Cathryn Costello took leave to take up a position at the Hertie School in Berlin, but remains closely connected to our activities. At the very end of the year, we learnt that Jenny Peebles, a co-editor of *Forced Migration Review* (FMR), was leaving. Jenny's contribution has been great. Thanks to her and Marion Couldrey she leaves an FMR that is more influential and relevant than ever.

In the midst of this tumultuous year came news that struck all of us at the Centre particularly deeply. Our long-running colleague, Professor Gil Loescher, passed away at the age of 75. Alex Betts has written an obituary of this remarkable man in the pages that follow. But let me record my gratitude here to a brilliant scholar and beloved teacher who was driven by an uncommon drive to make the world a better place for refugees. As a tribute to his work and inspiration, we have decided to name our annual student award the 'Gil Loescher Prize for Best Overall Performance on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies'.

Professor Matthew J Gibney
*Director, Refugee Studies Centre
Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics
and Forced Migration*



Our research

The Refugee Studies Centre undertakes independent, multidisciplinary, academic research on the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. Its academic staff have expertise across various disciplines, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, law, politics, and international relations.

Through their research, members of the Centre challenge common assumptions and understandings related to forced migration, with important implications for public debate, policy, and practice. The Centre's influence relies on an extensive network of relationships with other universities, research institutions, governments, international organisations, NGOs, and businesses.



Rohingya children look over a bridge at Charkmakul refugee camp in Bangladesh

Research projects

The Duties of Refugees

2017–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

This project examines the contentious but highly important issue of the duties of refugees. Refugees and asylum seekers are often criticised in public debates for failing in their moral responsibilities. They have recently been admonished for failing to integrate; for not claiming asylum in the first state they come to; for ‘queue jumping’ or failing to ‘wait their turn’ to be resettled; and for not returning home once they no longer need asylum. However dubious these criticisms may be, there is little doubt that such criticism has played an important part in legitimising recent erosions of the rights of refugees. A key question thus emerges: just what are the duties of refugees as refugees? In this project, the role of refugees as duty holders in relation to a number of different groups will be considered.

The research will draw upon the resources of ethical theory, political science, history and law. First, it will interrogate critically the duties ascribed to refugees in current political debates. Second, it will trace the different ways in which the duties of refugees have been understood historically and the way they relate to changing conceptualisations of the refugee. Third, through interviews, the question of how refugees themselves understand their responsibilities will be explored. Finally, the project will draw upon the results of the above, as well as the resources of contemporary moral and political thinking, to provide a considered and practically relevant account of the moral and political duties of refugees.

Humanitarian Nutrition

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This project examines humanitarian nutrition and its history from the 19th century to the present day. Through archival research, fieldwork, oral history and the analysis of humanitarian handbooks, it examines how Victorian technologies such as the soup kitchen were transformed into contemporary mechanisms for emergency feeding. In many refugee crises around the world, emergency feeding is a central part of humanitarian action, and this project traces how changing understandings of the human body and its needs have affected the treatment of forcibly displaced populations. It explores the transformation from communal to individual designs, from vernacular to technical foods, and from personal to impersonal measurements, examining what shaped these changes, and how they reflect the wider socio-political concerns of the age. A book capturing the key lessons from this project has been published by Cornell University Press, entitled *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*. A journal article on a prominent



Workers mix dye into fabric at RefuSHE in Nairobi, Kenya

© UNHCR / Will Swanson

humanitarian food product was published in 2018 by *Social Studies of Science*, entitled ‘Sticky technologies: Plumpy’nut®, emergency feeding and the viscosity of humanitarian design’. Further articles on programmes of food relief from the 1940s are in preparation.

Humanitarian Shelter

2015–ongoing

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

This research explores the strategies taken by aid agencies to provide emergency housing for refugees, especially since the European crisis of 2015. The research includes a project called Architectures of Displacement, which was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council between 2016 and 2019. This project brought together experts in forced displacement, archaeology, anthropology, and architecture to study refugee shelter across six countries, and resulted in an edited book published by Berghahn Press entitled *Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter* (www.berghahnbooks.com/title/Scott-SmithStructures), an exhibition at the Pitt Rivers Museum (entitled *Lande* – details available at www.prm.ox.ac.uk/event/lande), and a feature length documentary film (entitled *Shelter Without Shelter* – details available at www.shelterwithoutshelter.com). Tom Scott-Smith is currently writing a monograph expanding on the fieldwork conducted across Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Germany and France in 2016–18, provisionally entitled *Fragments of Shelter*. An article indicating some of the themes from this book was published in *American Ethnologist* in 2019, entitled ‘Beyond the Boxes: Refugee Shelter and the Humanitarian Politics of Life’.

The Liberal State and the Expulsion of Members: Banishment, Denationalisation and Deportation

2008–ongoing

Professor Matthew J Gibney

The lawful power to expel people considered criminal, dangerous or otherwise undesirable has been a feature of virtually all human communities. This project explores the various incarnations that expulsion power takes in modern liberal states and the issues it raises for communities ostensibly committed to principles of freedom, equality and human rights. The main foci of analysis in the project are: the history of banishment as a precursor of modern deportation power; denationalisation and the evolution of powers to strip citizenship in liberal states; and the evolution and legitimacy of deportation. In addition to illustrating the ongoing tension between the power to expel and liberal principles, this project attempts to show how new developments in membership and concerns over crime and terrorism in modern states fuel contemporary controversy over expulsion.

Refugees are Migrants: Refugee Mobility, Recognition and Rights (RefMig)

European Research Council, 2018–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello, Dr Caroline Nalule, Dr Derya Özkul, and Dr Angela Sherwood

The RefMig project aims to re-examine the global refugee regime through the lens of mobility and migration. In order to achieve a deeper understanding of the laws, norms, institutions and practices that govern refugeehood and the migration and mobility of refugees, the project examines the division between refugees and (other) migrants in several contexts. The project's premise, that 'refugees are migrants', examines how refugees come to be recognised (or not), and opens up for scrutiny those practices that limit refugee flight and onward mobility, examining how migration control concerns have come to permeate the refugee regime.

RefMig has two main strands. *Recognising Refugees* is a comparative empirical study of diverse processes for recognising refugees, examining in particular group recognition practices and the role of UNHCR in Refugee Status Determination (RSD). The *Organisations of Protection* strand examines the role

of international organisations in the global migration regime, and how that effects the scope of international protection. This strand currently focuses on the role of the IOM in particular, its obligations, ethos and accountability. Accountability is an overarching theme of RefMig. One of the first project outputs is the 2020 special issue of the *German Law Journal* entitled 'Border Justice: Migration and Accountability for Human Rights Violations'.

The RefMig project is a collaborative project based at the RSC and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School in Berlin.

The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law

2017–2021

Editors: Professor Cathryn Costello, Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Professor Jane McAdam (UNSW)

The Oxford Handbook of International Refugee Law will appear in spring 2021. It aims not just to recount the status quo, but also to critique it and set the agenda for future research on international refugee law. It is a 65-chapter reference work with 78 authors, of whom 48 are women. The gender (im)balance of the authors and editors reflects a notable feminization of this field of study, one which has decisively influenced its development. The Handbook differs significantly from existing reference works on international refugee law, in terms of both its breadth and depth. In our choices about authors, topics, and overall structure, we aspired for it to be global in scope. In terms of law, we sought to ensure consideration of a wide range of international legal instruments relevant to refugee protection. While the Refugee Convention is a central instrument and reference point, it is not the only one. Refugee protection involves many sources of law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international migration law, the law of the sea, and international and transnational criminal law. Geographically, we aimed to reflect on the practice of States globally, not just those in the Global North and/or parties to the Refugee Convention.

This collaboration is supported by the research partnership between Professors Foster and Costello funded by the MLS-Oxford Myers fund; the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney; and the Refugee Studies Centre.

Refugees work on farmland irrigation in Melkadida, Ethiopia



© UNHCR/ Eduardo Soteras Jaill



A Basque community in northern Spain welcomes refugee families from Syria

Global Asylum Governance and the European Union's Role (ASILE)

European Union, 2019–2023

Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Maja Janmyr (University of Oslo)

With Professor Maja Janmyr, Cathryn Costello leads a work package in the Horizon 2020 project ASILE, a scholarly network on European and global asylum policies. The project studies the interactions between emerging international protection systems and the United Nations Global Compact for Refugees (UN GCR), with particular focus on the European Union's role and contribution. Our work package – 'Refugee Recognition, Self-reliance and Rights' – will facilitate a better understanding of how refugee protection is allocated and the rights enjoyed by refugees, as well as clarify the link between 'refugeehood' and the quality of refugee protection, taking work rights as an important litmus test for this protection. It will provide an in-depth comparative case study on the refugee recognition regimes in Jordan and Bangladesh. Postdoctoral scholars working on this work package include Dr Lewis Turner and Dr M Sanjeeb Hossain.

Migrants and Refugees at Work

2012–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello

This growing strand of research sits at the intersection of migration and labour law. The project has its origins in a joint project with Professor Mark Freedland (Faculty of Law and St John's College), funded by the John Fell Fund, Society of Legal Scholars (SLS), St John's College Research Centre, and the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), Oxford. The inaugural seminar took place in June 2012, and led to an edited collection, *Migrants at Work: Immigration and Vulnerability in Labour Law* (OUP 2014). Other publications by Cathryn Costello include 'Migrants and Forced Labour: A Labour Law Response' (2014) and 'Seasonal Workers and Intra-Corporate Transferees in EU Law: Capital's Handmaidens?' (with Mark Freedland, 2016).

Her most recent work on this theme includes a book chapter on criminalisation of migrants in a novel collection examining the role of criminal law in the workplace: 'Victim or Perpetrator? The Criminalised Migrant and the Idea of "Harm" in the Labour Market Context' in Bogg et al. (eds) *Criminality at Work* (OUP, 2020). She is also contributing a chapter for the *Oxford Handbook on International Refugee Law* on asylum seekers' and refugees' right to work, with Professor Colm O'Connell (University College London).

Undoing Discriminatory Borders

John Fell Fund, 2019–ongoing

Dr Catherine Briddick, with Professor Cathryn Costello, Professor E Tendayi Achiume (UCLA), Professor Michelle Foster (University of Melbourne) and Professor Elspeth Guild (Queen Mary University of London)

Immigration laws and migration controls distribute migration opportunities unequally, to the exclusion and disadvantage of many. While migration controls intrinsically distinguish between nationals and non-nationals, they also distribute the opportunity to move legally, often in ways that are directly or indirectly discriminatory against women, racial and religious groups, and those whose sexual orientation, gender-identity or family status departs from the nuclear hetero-norm. Such discrimination may be identified within apparently neutral legal rules or migration statuses, or within algorithmic or other decision-making processes. There is, however, surprisingly little analysis of whether such rules and practices are unlawfully discriminatory. This project aims to fill that gap, by bringing together a network of legal scholars with expertise in both migration and non-discrimination. The aim of the first phase of our research is to map the application of non-discrimination norms to immigration/nationality laws and migration controls, considering in so doing, relevant national, regional (including EU) and international laws. Outputs from this project will include publications developed from two workshops (hosted jointly by the Refugee Studies Centre and the Centre for Fundamental Rights at the Hertie School).

Hard Refugee Protection through Soft Enforcement

2018–ongoing

Professor Cathryn Costello, with Professor Başak Çali (Hertie School, Berlin and Koç University, Istanbul)

This research examines the workings of the UN human rights treaty bodies on refugee rights, in particular as ‘soft enforcers’ of the norm of non-refoulement. The research blends empirical and doctrinal analysis; examines against which states are non-removal complaints brought to UN treaty bodies; how states respond, in particular to UN treaty bodies’ requests for interim measures regarding non-removal; and the contribution of UN treaty bodies to the law on non-refoulement. It aims to reflect on the role of the international rule of law and ‘soft enforcement’ in refugee protection. The first publication from this project was published in 2020 in the *German Law Journal*: ‘Hard protection through soft courts? Non-refoulement before the United Nations Treaty Bodies’.

The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance

Economic & Social Research Council and the Arts & Humanities Research Council, 2016–2019
Professor Alexander Betts, Dr Kate Pincock, and Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

The global governance of forced migration is generally used to refer to the response of governments and international organisations to displaced populations; rarely do we think of refugees as the providers of protection and assistance. Yet understanding the ways in which refugees themselves engage in forms of refugee-led social protection offers an opportunity to fundamentally reconceive support for the displaced in more sustainable and empowering ways. This project involves interdisciplinary, mixed methods, comparative research in Kenya and Uganda (across urban and rural areas) on the diverse and neglected ways in which refugees engage in the provision of protection and assistance to their own communities. Through ethnographic, historical, and quantitative research, it seeks to identify the diverse forms, scope, and functions of refugee-led social protection; to understand and explain the emergence and evolution of particular forms of refugee-led social protection; and to test the degree to which refugees’ sources of security are derived from external assistance or from their own community-led initiatives.

The project has culminated in a book, *The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in March 2020; a series of articles including ‘The Rhetoric and Reality of Localisation: The Case of Refugee-Led Organisations’ (*Journal of Development Studies*); and a ‘Research in Brief’ entitled ‘Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance’ (RSC Research in Brief No. 10). In terms of impact, the project has led to a series of outcomes. During COVID-19, it has been used by the authors to highlight the important role of refugee-led organisations in being front-line responders to protection needs.

A Venezuelan family rests en route to Pamplona in Colombia



© UNHCR / Hélène Caux

Articles on the relevance to COVID-19 were published in *The Conversation*, *The New Humanitarian*, *Forced Migration Review*, and on the Kaldor Centre’s blog. The ideas in the book also inspired the creation of the RSC online seminar series, ‘#ByRefugees: Refugee-Led Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic’, which featured the leaders of refugee-led organisations, and attracted a global audience of over 2000 academics, refugees, policymakers, and practitioners.

Bargains of Inclusion: The Politics of Refugee Self-Reliance

The British Academy, 2018–2019
Professor Alexander Betts

Alexander Betts received a British Academy mid-career fellowship to explore the political economy of refugee self-reliance. Focusing on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, the research has used a combination of archival research and fieldwork to explore the question ‘why do some states give refugees the right to work, and other related socio-economic rights, while others do not?’ The research explores three case studies in depth. First, a political history of Uganda’s self-reliance model. Second, the politics beyond the development of Ethiopia’s 2019 Refugee Proclamation, which ostensibly gives refugees the right to work and freedom of movement. Third, the politics behind Turkana County in Kenya’s development of the Kalobeyei Integrated Social and Economic Development Plan (KISED). Out of the research emerges an understanding of the ‘bargains’ that are needed between the international, national, and local levels to enable refugees to have access to socio-economic rights. The research will be published as four chapters in Alexander Betts’ forthcoming book *The Wealth of Refugees: How Displaced People Can Build Economies* (Oxford University Press).

Refugee-led Social Protection, Digital Technologies and the 'Refugee Crisis'

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship,
2019–2022
Dr Marie Godin

The so-called 'European refugee crisis' that has unfolded over the last few years has generated a dynamic response from a novel and diverse constellation of social actors in the European context: from humanitarian organisations, local authorities, international and local NGOs, private actors and grassroots actors, including citizens and refugees themselves. However, refugees are still studied, overwhelmingly, as recipients of aid in the design of state welfare policies. In this regard the development of digital technologies has played a significant role in providing new opportunities for refugees while on the move but also on arrival in Western societies, especially in regard to fulfilling their social protection needs. This project aims to explore how the development of tech-social protection initiatives led by, with or for refugees, is contributing to a reshaping of the politics of welfare at the local, national and transnational levels.

Refugee-led Initiatives at the Time of COVID-19: Exploring New Forms of Digital Information, Assistance and Livelihood

British Academy Special Research Grant on
COVID-19, 2020–2021
Dr Evan Easton-Calabria and Dr Marie Godin

ICTs are reshaping our lives not only under normal circumstances, but increasingly so in crises. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate by race, gender or status but not everyone has been impacted in the same way by the crisis; migrant and refugee communities living in cities have been disproportionately affected. Within refugee studies, little research explores refugees' livelihoods, well-being, and support in relation to digitalisation. This leaves a gap in multiple agendas for refugees that risks leaving them further behind at the time of COVID-19. In this small research project we explore the existence of, potential for, and barriers to digital information, assistance and livelihood through a further under-researched phenomenon: the support provided to refugees through

initiatives and organisations led by refugees. This research project aims to better understand the impact of the pandemic on new digitally mediated support in three cities: London, Berlin, and Nairobi.

Responses to Crisis Migration in Uganda and Ethiopia: Researching the Role of Local Actors in Secondary Cities

Cities Alliance/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), 2019–2021
Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

This project aims to provide evidence to improve how secondary cities respond to and manage so-called 'crisis migration', particularly that affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. Secondary cities are the fastest growing urban areas, and despite being under-researched and overlooked by governments, they often host significant numbers of displaced people without the necessary resources or support. This project addresses this gap by investigating the secondary cities of Adama in Ethiopia and Arua in Uganda, examining how municipal authorities manage these cities and those that live within them, and – crucially – involving civil society actors such as migrant and refugee organisations in order to better understand how to improve the lives of forced migrants and those living alongside them.

The project will focus not just on improving the direct assistance provided to refugees and migrants, but research good practices and ways to enhance the *positive* effects of these influxes on secondary cities, such as on urban planning; infrastructure; and co-existence between migrants, citizens, and other members of society. We intend for our research to result in improved decision-making, coordination, and collaboration between local urban actors responsible for managing crisis migration in their respective cities, as well as partnerships between urban actors, federal governments, and international donor agencies. Academically, we aim to contribute qualitative fieldwork conducted with national researchers that captures original case studies of secondary cities' responses to forced migrants, and build theory that allows these responses to be explored critically within the context of wider agendas of assistance to displaced people.



Valens, from the DRC, rears poultry in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Uganda

© UNHCR / Duniya Aslam Khan

The Governance of AI-based Technologies in the Management of Migration

John Fell Fund, 2020–2021
Dr Derya Özkul

The use of AI-based technologies is on the rise in many sectors, including the ‘management of migration’. The literature suggests that the deployment of these technologies has been opaque with little knowledge about who has access to the data, with whom it is shared, and who is accountable for the wrongdoings of humans and automated decision-makers. The aim of this project is to understand the roles of the public sector, international organisations, such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and private tech companies in the use of AI-based technologies, during various processes of migration management, including registration of migrants and asylum seekers, access to asylum, distribution of humanitarian aid, and resettlement to third countries. Specifically, the project will explore how the use of new technologies challenges the principles of data protection and non-discrimination based on gender, nationality and ethnic backgrounds. Broadly, it will investigate how cooperation and conflict between the public and private sector transform the state structure and the centralist management of migration. The project will make use of qualitative methods, including desk-based research of existing legislation and 30 online interviews with data analysts and officers responsible for policy-making and implementation of the legislation in the case studies of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan – where biometric and blockchain technologies were tested at a large scale with the arrival of Syrian refugees.

The Syrian Humanitarian Disaster: Understanding Perceptions, Aspirations and Behaviour in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

2012–ongoing; British Academy funding, 2014–2015; New York University funding, 2018–2019
Emeritus Professor Dawn Chatty

In the context of the ongoing crisis, this study sets out to understand the perceptions of Syria’s refugees, as well as those of policymakers, practitioners and host communities, in respect of the minimum ‘right to life’ standards for survival in dignity that should be made available to those displaced by the Syrian conflict. It seeks to understand discrepancies between the perceptions and aspirations of each group in adequately addressing the protection needs of Syria’s refugees given the non-binding nature of state obligations as set out in the 1951 Convention. The study expects to draw policy conclusions as well as preliminary scholarly findings for further study based on an understanding of the socio-historical context, and on data from focus group discussions and semi-formal interviews. Workshops have been held to advocate for better communications and empathy between aid workers, refugees, and host community members. In 2017, two articles were published in *Global Policy* and in the *Middle East Journal of Refugee Studies*.

Funding has been granted by New York University to extend the study to displaced Syrians in the Gulf States of Arabia. A workshop was held in March 2019 in Abu Dhabi which brought together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers working with displaced Syrians in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Gulf. A special issue on Displaced Syrians based on the papers presented at the workshop is in production for the *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

A follow-on workshop bringing together senior aid practitioners, policymakers and academics is scheduled for November 2021. New York University Abu Dhabi’s The Institute will host the workshop, ‘Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees from Syria: the Impetus behind the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees’.

Justice and Autonomy Quests in Kurdistan

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellowship, 2019–2022
Dr Dilar Dirik

This project maps layers of statelessness and self-determination in Kurdistan by focusing on refugee communities and camps that organise themselves along the Kurdish freedom movement’s notion of ‘democratic autonomy’. These include autonomously-organised camps in various regions of the Middle East, as well as a community in Greece. What can we learn about democracy concepts by looking at practices of refugee self-determination that seek to transcend the nation-state?

A second aspect of the project examines Kurdish women’s quests for justice in the aftermath of episodes of large-scale political violence. Drawing on feminist ideas around transformative justice, it reviews the ways in which women in the region define their means of political action between ‘NGO-ization’ and system change. The ethnographic fieldwork for this project had to be delayed due to COVID-19 and new episodes of violence in the region.



A recycling project in Za’atari camp, Jordan

Borders, Global Governance and the Refugee, 1947–1951

The British Academy, 2020–2021
Dr Anne Irfan

In today's era of rising populism, tensions between the nation-state and internationalism have reached a particular crescendo over refugees' cross-border movement. In response, the UK and the UN are both seeking to reform existing refugee policy. By unpacking the international refugee regime's historical origins, this project reframes the contemporary discourse to directly inform policy-making. It examines how today's refugee regime was the product of a particular historical moment after the Second World War, which established a system of global governance for managing forced migration, and set the stage for internationalist tensions with the nation-state. The UK was central to this process, as two of the era's biggest refugee crises occurred following its withdrawal from India in 1947 and Palestine in 1948. This interdisciplinary research therefore comparatively analyses the past in order to enhance understandings of the present.

Palestinian Refugees, the Art of Resistance and International Community: Untold Stories from Refugee Cinemas

The British Academy, 2020–2021
Dr Anne Irfan (in collaboration with Dr Muhammad Hamdan, An-Najah University, Palestine)

There is a long history of Palestinian refugees' creative resistance to political oppression, yet scholarship on the subject is often fragmented. This project takes a new and original approach in exploring the art of resistance through Palestinian refugee cinema across time and space. Comparatively examining practices of filmmaking across refugee camps in the West Bank and Lebanon, this research explores how Palestinians have employed cinema to create a narrative of resistance that engenders international solidarity. In so doing, it speaks to the increasing emphasis in Refugee Studies on centralising refugees' agency in narrating their own stories; it also engages with scholarly debates around defining resistance. The ultimate aim is to develop a new framework to reshape scholarly understandings of the Palestinian sphere, resistance, protracted displacement, internationalism, and the role of art in refugee politics.

How Historical Memory Shapes European Policies Towards Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2020
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

As thousands of refugees and migrants came into Europe in 2015, one of the most common ways for them to arrive in the EU was through the Balkan route from Turkey. This research project is concerned with the reactions of countries at the end of the Balkan route (Hungary, Austria and Germany) to the mass arrival

of Syrian refugees during the summer of 2015. In particular, it is investigating how state identity mattered for the political decision-making process. Fieldwork has been completed, including interviews with relevant politicians at the Forum Alpbach.

The Effects of Conflict and Flight: National Identities of Syrian Refugees

IKEA Foundation Research Fellowship, 2017–2020
Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

This project theorises on the effects of conflict and flight on national identity. To advance the explanatory power of International Relations (IR) approaches, it develops an interdisciplinary framework and tests it on the empirical case study of Syria. The project analyses data collected in large N online surveys. The results aim to explore transformations in the meaning of national identity among Syrians and Syrian refugees with specific attention given to the voices of women. How Syrians themselves draw the boundaries around their national in-group will be crucial for any peace settlement as well as for the legitimacy of a future Syrian state, in addition to having broader implications for how IR theory understands national identity change amid conflict. For a cross-case analysis, a study on Palestinian refugees was added to the project. Currently, surveys are being conducted among Palestinian refugees in the West Bank.

Integration of Syrian Refugee Families in Oxfordshire

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018–2019; John Fell Fund 2019–2020
Professor Naohiko Omata

This research aims to understand how Syrian refugee families who came to Oxfordshire via the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) have been adapting to life in the UK. Following the completion of the second phase of research in April 2019, with new funding from the John Fell Fund this study has entered a third phase from September 2019. The scope is now expanded to include: 1) SVPRS families who were settled in other districts of Oxfordshire, and 2) Syrian refugees who did not use SVPRS but spontaneously chose to settle in Oxford of their own accord. In addition, this study will investigate 'best practices' of other refugee integration support schemes for (Syrian) refugees in and outside the UK, and their potential applicability within the context of Oxfordshire. A research brief and a working paper were published between 2018 and 2019.

Find out about research at the RSC on our website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/research.

You can keep up to date with all RSC activities by signing up to our monthly newsletter at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/connect

Refugee Economies Programme

IKEA Foundation, World Food Programme, World Economic Forum, 2012–ongoing

Professor Alexander Betts, Raphael Bradenbrink, Antonia Delius, Jonas Kaufmann, Andonis Marden, Professor Naohiko Omata, Jade Siu, Dr Olivier Sterck, Maria Stierna, Isabelle Aires, Madison Bakewell

The Refugee Economies Programme undertakes research on the economic lives of refugees. Our research is interdisciplinary, combining economics, anthropology, and political science. We collect original qualitative and quantitative data, and often draw upon a range of participatory methods, including working with refugee researchers. Our research aims to explain variation in the economic behaviour and outcomes for refugees. We cover themes such as welfare outcomes, social cohesion between refugees and hosts, migration and mobility, and we also undertake impact evaluations to assess the impact of market-based interventions such as cash-based assistance, entrepreneurship training, and employment-creation schemes.

Methodologically, the centrepiece of our research is the collection of an original panel data set, based on multi-country and time-series data collection: the Refugee Economies Dataset. With an initial focus on Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, the dataset covers urban and rural areas, refugees and hosts, and includes multiple data collection periods. The dataset includes over 16,000 refugees and host community members from across six research sites. We have collected one wave of data for Uganda and Ethiopia, and two waves of data for Kenya. The survey questionnaire is wide-ranging and includes modules on income, expenditure, assets, subjective well-being, physical and mental health, education, aspirations, migration and mobility, refugee-host community interactions, attitudes, and demography, for example. The breadth of the questionnaire enables us to explore correlations between variables, both cross-sectionally and over time. All of this work is complemented by in-depth qualitative research.

In addition to our panel data collection, the Programme has worked recently on two supplementary projects.

First, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, we examined the impact of the new Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County in Kenya, created in 2016 as an integrated settlement for refugees and the host community to support greater self-reliance for refugees. In our research, we have compared the impact of living in Kalobeyei on socio-economic outcomes with the impact of living in the nearby Kakuma camps. We have also explored the impact of some of Kalobeyei's market-based innovations, such as particular models of cash assistance, on both households and businesses. Second, in collaboration with the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR, we undertook an impact evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's seven-year investment in the Dollo Ado refugee camps, as an example of the role of the private sector in improving socio-economic opportunities for refugees and the host community, even within remote refugee-hosting regions. The impact evaluation has been published, and we are now working on a series of policy briefs, academic outputs, and a short documentary film about the evaluation.

During the last year, the programme has produced several new reports. These include 'Building Refugee Economies: An Evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's Programmes in Dollo Ado' (Oxford: RSC), and 'Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement' (Oxford: RSC). We have also published a series of academic articles and working papers, including two articles on the Kalobeyei settlement in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*: 'Self-reliance and social networks: explaining refugees' reluctance to relocate from Kakuma to Kalobeyei' and 'The Kalobeyei Settlement: a self-reliance model for refugees?'

Publications are available on the RSC website and on our project website: www.refugee-economies.org



A Bamba Chakula trader in Kakuma camp, Kenya

Refugee-led initiatives at the time of COVID-19: digital information, assistance and livelihood

Marie Godin¹ and Evan Easton-Calabria²

¹British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and ²Senior Research Officer

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are reshaping lives under normal circumstances, and increasingly so in crises. Within refugee studies, there is little research that explores refugees' livelihoods and well-being in relation to digitalisation. This leaves a gap in multiple agendas for refugees that risks leaving them further behind. This is even more significant at a time when remote work and life are becoming 'the new normal' in the age of COVID-19.

In this small research project, funded by British Academy Special Research Grants: COVID-19, we explore the existence of digital service provision for refugees in this time of global pandemic through a further under-researched phenomenon: the support provided to refugees via refugee-led initiatives and grassroots refugee community organisations (RCOs). This research aims to better understand how ICTs and mobile technologies are impacting the lives of asylum seekers and refugees, with a focus on the ways in which RCOs (both formal and informal) and refugee-led initiatives are turning to digital practises to provide new forms of digital information, assistance, and livelihoods.

We examine the nexus between refugee community networks and new technologies from the perspective of urban refugees in three cities: London, Nairobi, and Berlin. We are conducting three 'netnographies' (Kosinets, 2010), participant-observational research based on online fieldwork. Further, we explore different levels of 'digital connectivities' in the ways in which refugees and their communities mobilise resources to fulfil social/psychosocial, economic, and information needs, sometimes even beyond their own communities.

Through centring our research on three cities with distinct national and local integration policies towards refugees, we can examine the roles that host country and urban environments play in promoting or discouraging formal and informal digital support for and by refugees, as well as how the duration of exile affects the creation and forms of digital initiatives. This geographical breadth is important because, despite the recognition of the benefits of conducting comparative research in the field of refugee studies, comparison between field sites in Europe and Africa remains scarce. These contexts present the opportunity to better understand how refugees use new technologies to find ways to provide support.

Our research questions include:

- **Mapping:** Which support initiatives have refugee community organisations created to address COVID-19 in Nairobi (with a secondary broader focus on

Sub-Saharan Africa) and in refugee communities in Berlin and London (with a secondary broader focus on Europe)? Which existing initiatives have adapted to continue work online, and how have they achieved this?

- **Context:** How are the local and national contexts in which RCOs operate, including integration policies, facilitating or constraining their digital initiatives?
- **Normative:** What role do ICTs play in supporting refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic at the community level via online support (social, economic, and psychological) provided by RCOs?

We aim for this research project to generate important evidence about these grassroots and often invisible practices during this time of crisis. It will produce knowledge in both academic and policy formats, presenting the opportunity to influence policymakers to consider refugees not only as recipients of aid, but rather as key providers of social, psychological, economic, and informative support. With refugees often perceived as a burden to their host society rather than contributors to the well-being of their own community and beyond, contributing to the knowledge of these digitally refugee-led initiatives can have positive practical and policy impacts within local urban contexts and internationally.



Marie Godin



Evan Easton-Calabria



Repair man and vendor of used phones in Nakivale settlement, Uganda

Policy and impact

A key aim of the Refugee Studies Centre is to ensure that our work has a meaningful impact beyond the academic community. We achieve this by combining our independent, objective and critical scholarship with an active role in engaging policymakers in governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organisations, shaping public understanding through the media, and working directly with refugees.

Policy engagement

Over the past year, the **Refugee Economies Programme**, led by **Alexander Betts**, has undertaken a series of policy and impact activities related to the **Dollo Ado refugee camps** in Ethiopia. First, it undertook a series of dissemination events in the five Dollo Ado camps during October 2019 relating to the report ‘Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia’. The report was fully translated into Somali (Noloshah Dhaqaale ee Qaxootiga ku Nool Dollo Ado) and this version was disseminated among communities within focus group discussions with refugee leaders in each of the five camps. The focus groups were notably led by **Raphael Bradenbrink**, one of the co-authors of the report. Second, the Programme undertook an impact evaluation of the **IKEA Foundation’s** livelihood programmes in Dollo Ado. The evaluation findings have been presented and disseminated to a wide-range of policymakers and practitioners. For example, findings were presented to **UNHCR** staff in the Geneva, Addis Ababa, and Melkadida offices. A series of further policy-relevant outputs are planned, including additional policy briefs and a short documentary film.

The Refugee Economies Programme is also developing a series of new **scholarship and training** opportunities for refugees around the world, and has created a new position of ‘Refugee Scholars and Partnerships Manager’ to facilitate these opportunities. A series of projects are being developed. First, the Programme is collaborating with **Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)** on the development of a 12-module online course in ‘Refugee and Forced Migration Studies’, based loosely on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The course will be piloted and launched initially in East Africa in 2021. Second, the Programme is planning to recruit, train, and mentor a cohort of early career social scientists from within refugee communities within East Africa. Based initially in Nairobi, the plan is for the team to engage in the co-design and implementation of a series of mixed methods research projects, including a longitudinal study of the role of refugee-led organisations during COVID-19.

Also this year, the Refugee Economies Programme completed a 3-year series of impact evaluations relating to the **Kalobeyei settlement** in Kenya, conducted in collaboration with the **World Food Programme**. The research included following recently arrived South Sudanese households allocated to the ‘old’ Kakuma refugee camps and the ‘new’ Kalobeyei settlement,

to explore what difference the new settlement model made. The collaboration led to a series of evaluations of particular cash-based programmes, including examining the impact of both restricted and unrestricted cash models at business and household levels. The findings of the work have been published through a series of policy reports, research briefs, and outlined in briefings to policymakers, notably at WFP and other partner organisations such as UNHCR.

Alexander Betts has collaborated with the **Gapminder Foundation** and the **IKEA Foundation** to develop a ‘refugee public ignorance test’ based on the Gapminder Foundation methods developed by Hans, Ola, and Anna Rosling. Together, the RSC and Gapminder launched a series of questions designed to test public understanding of fact-based questions, and launched them through Google Survey in a range of countries, as well as within professional organisations such as UNHCR. The results of the pilot tests were explained by Ola Rosling and Alexander Betts at a launch event at the **Global Refugee Forum** in Geneva in December 2019. They were then



Street vendors at Kalobeyei Village 3 market, Kenya

refined and disseminated during World Refugee Week 2020 in collaboration with the IKEA Foundation. One of the key findings of the pilot study has been that public ignorance on refugee issues appears to have no or little correlation with attitudes towards refugees. This suggests that fact-based narratives alone are likely to be insufficient to change public attitudes towards refugees.

Anne Irfan has been in demand this year for her expertise on Palestinian refugees. In February, she spoke in the **UK Parliament** on the Trump administration's 'Peace to Prosperity' plan for Israel-Palestine and its implications for Palestinian refugees. Anne and **Dawn Chatty** helped draft a statement on the plan with other members of the ARDD Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine. Anne has also written several articles in the media on the subject of Palestinian refugees, including one (with Jo Kelcey) in the *Washington Post*.

Dilar Dirik has been working with a number of media outlets in relation to the ongoing war in Syria, particularly regarding the invasion of the Turkish army into majority Kurdish regions in Northern Syria (Peace Spring Operation). She was interviewed for several radio programmes, newspaper articles and an **MSNBC** documentary on the disastrous humanitarian implications of the war. She has also helped journalists and researchers make contact with people affected by war and displacement in Syria. Media outlets include the BBC, Al Jazeera, MSNBC, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Haaretz*, and *Monocle 24*.

Finally, **Roger Zetter** was invited as an expert witness to present evidence on the implications of climate change for migration ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the EU Home Affairs Subcommittee at the **House of Lords** in March.

Tom Scott-Smith named as a 2020 AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker

We are pleased to announce that **Tom Scott-Smith** has been selected as one of this year's ten AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinkers.

The New Generation Thinkers scheme is one of the major ways the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) engages the public with the inspiring research taking place across the UK. It is a chance for early career researchers, with support and training provided by the AHRC and the BBC, to cultivate the skills to communicate their research findings to those outside the academic community; helping the next generation of researchers find new and wider audiences for their research by giving them a platform to share their ideas and allowing them to have the space to challenge our thinking.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the scheme, during which 100 early career arts and humanities researchers have had unique access to training and

support from the AHRC and the BBC. Throughout the year, the new cohort have the opportunity to work with BBC producers to develop their ideas to showcase a vibrant mix of research from across the arts and humanities.

Shortly before World Refugee Day in June, BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking programme focused on Refugees. Tom Scott-Smith spoke about his research into **Architectures of Displacement**. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the AHRC, this project explores temporary accommodation for refugees in the Middle East and Europe. A key output is the documentary film **Shelter Without Shelter** (by Mark E Breeze and Tom Scott-Smith). View the trailer at: www.shelterwithoutshelter.film

Listen to the BBC Radio 3 Free Thinking episode on Refugees at: www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000k37n

The project Architectures of Displacement features in an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum on 'Refugees: Forced to Flee', running from 24 September 2020 to 24 May 2021. The exhibition is rooted in cutting-edge research, funded by the AHRC and the ESRC. It aims to shed light on the lived experience of refugees, exploring why people flee their homes and take certain items with them; how they make their journeys and find safety; and the challenges that can be experienced when resettling.

Details on the exhibition can be found at: www.iwm.org.uk/events/refugees-forced-to-flee



Remnants of the Calais Jungle camp, December 2016

© Tom Scott-Smith

Media coverage

RSC staff have written articles and provided expert opinion for media outlets on a range of issues over the past year. Here are just a few examples.

Tom Scott-Smith discusses refugee shelter with BBC Radio 3's Free Thinking

BBC Radio 3, 18 June 2020

Ahead of World Refugee Day 2020, BBC Radio 3's 'Free Thinking' programme focused on 'Refugees', and interviewed Tom Scott-Smith about his research into Architectures of Displacement. Funded



by the ESRC and AHRC, this project has explored temporary accommodation for refugees in the Middle East and Europe. Tom is a 2020 New Generation Thinker, a scheme run by the AHRC and the BBC which brings the latest academic research to radio. Of his research Tom said, "The question I set out to answer was 'How are refugees being accommodated in different countries? What works? What doesn't work? What's the role of design? And I was also interested in something a bit more philosophical which is, what is shelter in the end? How can we think about this basic human need through the way that people provide for it?'" Listen to the programme at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000k37n>

How governments in the Americas are bungling the migration crisis

Foreign Affairs, 15 October 2019

Professor Alexander Betts writes on the migration crisis in the Americas in this full length article. He compares the situation and the response in the Americas to that in Europe since 2015, and details



the lessons that can be learned from Europe. He writes: "The key lesson from the European experience of 2015 is that when it comes to migration, there are limits to unilateralism and bilateralism. The sense of crisis began to abate only when the EU adopted a multipronged approach grounded in cooperation among the migrants' countries of origin, transit, and destination." The article also questions the usefulness of conventional categories such as 'refugees' and 'economic migrants', when "what Europe saw in 2015 and what the Americas are witnessing today are not simply refugee flows or market-driven population movements but rather 'survival migration'."

Has the world learned the lessons of the 2015 refugee crisis?

World Politics Review, 31 March 2020

In this article, looking back at the tragic events of 2015, Matthew Gibney writes that "even amid populist backlashes to refugees and migrants, across Europe as well as in the United States,



the attempt to create more humane refugee policies through efforts like the Global Compact raised hopes for a new direction

in the future." But, he asks, how much has really changed, especially in Western countries where refugees have largely faded from the headlines? After considering political commitments and actions since the crisis, he concludes "Five years on... the norms that hold together international refugee protection are in a perilous state. Wealthy countries are refusing to open their borders to more than a handful of refugees through resettlement schemes. Many Western governments have shown signs that they are willing to repel refugees even at the price of basic norms of decency and the minimal requirements of international law."

US no longer thinks Israeli settlements are illegal – this is a green light for more Palestinian displacement

The Conversation, 22 November 2019

Anne Irfan writes about the announcement by the US government that it no longer views Israeli settlements in the West



Bank as illegal, marking a dramatic departure from the stance of previous US administrations and the rejection of a 2016 UN resolution that settlements on the West Bank are a 'flagrant violation' of international law. Irfan highlights that the Israeli settlements go hand-in-hand with Palestinian displacement, and also with severe restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement.

COVID-19 has Kenyan refugee camp on edge

The New Humanitarian, 14 April 2020

Dr Cory Rodgers looks at preparations being made at Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya ahead of a potential outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. The Kakuma camp is home to over 194,000 refugees and asylum seekers. At the time of writing the article, it had yet to have any cases of the virus. Rodgers reports that people are trying to stock up with food. The World Food Programme distributed May's rations early, but people are also using the little cash they have from cash transfers to try to stock up. UNHCR has been focusing on prevention activities, setting up a COVID-19 task force, delivering information campaigns, setting up isolation areas, but there is considerable cause for concern. Turkana County has no intensive care units and a very fragile health system.



Refugee groups fill gaps in COVID-19 response, and they need support

The New Humanitarian, 29 April 2020

Robert Hakiza (YARID), Alexander Betts, Evan Easton-Calabria and Kate Pincock examine the role of refugee-led organisations in



the provision of protection and assistance. They state: "There are literally hundreds of such organisations, many of which provide services that are highly valued by the communities, and some operate at an impressive scale. However, they have rarely received international humanitarian funding and are almost never recognised as implementing partners by the UN system." The authors argue for the formation of a coalition on refugee-led aid, with a focus on building best practices and piloting new delivery mechanisms to get resources into the hands of frontline providers.

Borders and colonial legacies: the refugee regime in the Global South

Anne Irfan

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

This year we have been joined by Anne Irfan, a historian of forced migration. She is teaching on the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies as well as continuing her research, which she introduces below.

According to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the world is facing the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. While this statement has become embedded in the discourse around today's so-called 'refugee crisis', the reality is more complex. In fact, the largest mass migration in recorded history took the form of a refugee crisis in the early years after the end of the war, when the 1947 Partition of India led to the flight of more than 14 million refugees across newly-established state borders. The following year, the creation of more new borders elsewhere in the world caused another refugee crisis of huge significance: the establishment of the state of Israel engendered the displacement and dispossession of more than three-quarters of the Palestinian Arab population in the late 1940s.

Despite their size and significance, neither of these large-scale forced migrations received any support from UNHCR, which was established shortly afterwards as the centrepiece of the UN's new refugee regime. Instead, Palestinian refugees were sequestered under the more restricted mandate of a separate UN agency, UNRWA, while South Asian refugees received no institutional support from the UN – despite its claims to be 'global'. Their exclusions were consistent with UNHCR's early operations, which were largely restricted to European refugees. With this in mind, my research examines the dynamics between the UN and refugee populations in the Global South in the post-war period. Drawing on the intersections between decolonisation, borders, partition and globalism, the project explores how the events and experiences of these two refugee crises informed the early emergence and development of the UN refugee regime. I am especially interested in the regional and Eurocentric dynamics that fed into the UN's definitions, classifications, and ethos of international responsibility around forced migration.

The origins of the UN's global refugee regime is an especially relevant subject in the contemporary climate, as debates continue to swirl around international responses to the perceived 'refugee crisis' today. My research suggests that the refugee regime's Eurocentric origins continue to blight it today, despite the fact that it was internationalised – at least in theory – in 1967. In many respects, it remains global in name but Eurocentric in practice – and this can only be understood by unpacking its origins. By making these interventions, my research engages with the emerging sub-field of refugee history, developed in recent years

by historians such as Peter Gatrell, Benjamin White, Mezna Qato, and Katarzyna Nowak. In keeping with this approach, the research seeks to trace the historical conditions and contingencies that have shaped understandings of forced migration and refugee issues. In this way, it also speaks to ongoing debates around whether the global refugee regime remains fit for purpose, and what reforms might be needed. As such, I hope that my research can contribute to debates both within the academy and beyond it.

About Anne

Anne Irfan is a historian of forced migration, specialising in the modern Middle East and the global refugee regime. She has a PhD in International History from the London School of Economics, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on the UN's historical role in the Palestinian refugee camps. The project was based on extensive research at the UNRWA archive in Amman, tracing the exchanges between the international regime and Palestinian refugee communities in the early decades of their exile. Anne has spoken at the UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva, and the UK Parliament in Westminster, on displacement in the Middle East and the plight of Palestinian refugees from Syria today. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *Jerusalem Quarterly* and *Forced Migration Review*. She recently won the CBRL 2020 Best Paper Prize for her work on Palestinian refugee petitions. Anne is currently writing a book on the UN regime's historical politics in the Palestinian refugee camps. Alongside her research, she teaches Research Methods and a course on Postcolonial Borders & Forced Migration as part of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Twitter: @anne_irfan



Anne Irfan



A tribute to Gil Loescher

Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs

Earlier this year, the Refugee Studies Centre lost a brilliant, kind, and inspiring colleague. Professor Gil Loescher dedicated his life to studying and teaching at the intersection of Refugee Studies and International Relations. He used his research to shape refugee policy and practice around the world, informing the work of organisations such as UNHCR and the US State Department, as well as working directly with refugees and displaced people in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Born in San Francisco, Gil went to St Mary's College of California on a basketball scholarship, before training as an international historian and political scientist at the LSE. Gil spent 25 years as a professor at the University of Notre Dame. After retiring from Notre Dame, he relocated to the UK and worked with the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the International Institute of Strategic Studies, and OpenDemocracy, in the early 2000s. He had a longstanding relationship with the Refugee Studies Centre following its establishment in the early 1980s, consistently pushing for Refugee Studies to engage more effectively with politics and history, visiting to teach and engage on numerous occasions. For most of the last two decades, we have been privileged to have Gil as a permanent presence at the RSC, most notably holding the title of Visiting Professor – one that massively understated his contribution to the Centre.

Gil's intellectual contribution to Refugee Studies is immense. He is without doubt, the single most important academic to work on the international

relations of forced migration. His approach can be characterised as based on drawing from historical research to inform and engage with contemporary practice. He undertook pioneering archival research on the history of US refugee policy and on the history of UNHCR. His rigorous historical engagement enabled him to authoritatively identify recurring patterns and easily identify past precedent, in ways that were prescient to policymakers. And his writing is a rare balance of rigour, accessibility, and empathy.

Throughout Gil's scholarship are a series of common themes. Perhaps most importantly he recognised that refugee protection is inherently political, and needs to be seen as such, a perspective that paved the way for a generation of political scientists and international relations scholars to work on refugee issues. Throughout his writing can be found a preoccupation with the injustice of refugee camps, the futility of building walls to contain refugees, the importance of refugee resettlement. His overarching goal was to find practical ways to make the international refugee regime more effective in protecting, assisting, and

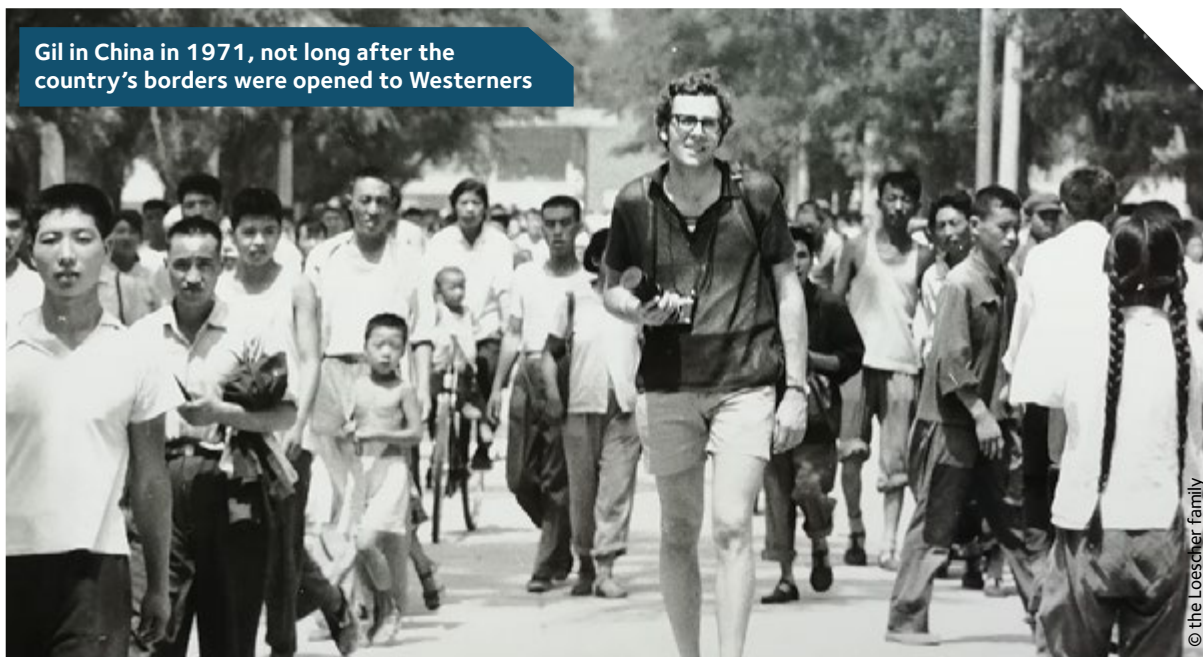


Gil Loescher



Gil in the Mae La refugee camps in Thailand, 2006

Gil in China in 1971, not long after the country's borders were opened to Westerners



providing solutions to refugees. And within this, a major focus was on highlighting the agency and autonomy of international organisations like UNHCR – and its staff – to make a real and tangible difference in practice.

Gil suffered life-changing injuries in the August 2003 bombing of the UN compound in Baghdad, while advising on the humanitarian response for displaced Iraqis. Following his injuries, Gil inspired many with his rapid return to work, and his research engaged even more directly with the refugee communities he served. Despite the practical challenges, he embraced fieldwork, connecting with disabled refugees in the Burmese border camps in Thailand, for example. And this shift in focus was underscored by his work on protracted refugee situations, which made a notable difference in shaping policy debates on alternatives to encampment.

Gil was an inspiring teacher. He delivered his course on ‘UNHCR in World Politics’ to more than a dozen cohorts of MSc students. It was interactive and applied, taking concepts from international relations and grounding them in practice. Each year, students would have the opportunity to write and present a policy brief on how to address a particular protracted refugee situation. He would encourage innovative thinking, and students would delve deeply into ways to overcome encampment in situations from Dadaab to Cox’s Bazar. He was still teaching earlier this year.

On a personal level, Gil was the reason I came to Oxford. I wanted to study the international relations of refugee assistance, and he was the giant of that field. In the summer of 2003, I read his recently published *UNHCR and World Politics* in readiness for going up to Oxford to study for the MPhil in Development Studies. Then on 23 August I learned of the bombing in Baghdad. For days, I followed news of his progress by whatever medium was available, despite never having met Gil in person. A few weeks later, I learned of the extent of his injuries, and that he was the sole survivor from Sergio Vieira de Mello’s office. And

yet, a year later, as I began taking RSC courses in the second year of my MPhil, Gil was back in the classroom, despite his injuries, teaching his ‘Refugees in International Relations’ course alongside James Milner.

As I got to know Gil, he became a generous and inspiring mentor to me, as he was to many others, offering extensive feedback on my DPhil chapters and early publications. I had the privilege to collaborate with him on his work on protracted refugee situations, and two book projects. In everything we did together, he was inspiring to work with, eager to do things well, and keen for others – especially younger scholars – to take the credit. Working with Gil provided an insight into how widely respected he was. Practically every leading International Relations scholar we approached to contribute to our edited volume did so because they knew and respected Gil. And, remarkably for a critically engaged academic, he was almost universally respected and loved within UNHCR.

As a colleague at the RSC, Gil was unflinchingly kind and generous. He would always make time for students and faculty who sought his advice, graciously volunteer his time for meetings and to assess the work of Masters and Doctoral students, and try to contribute wherever he could to make a difference. His nearly two decades of contribution to the RSC were largely unpaid, and yet he contributed as though he were permanent faculty.

Gil’s legacy to the RSC is not only a seminal contribution to Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, but as a shining beacon of inspiration for how to be an academic who can make a real difference to people’s lives, whether refugees, students, or colleagues. We will miss him greatly, but we will not forget his legacy, as a scholar or as a human being.

Refugees: A Very Short Introduction, Gil’s final book, will be published by Oxford University Press in May 2021.

Studying and learning

The Refugee Studies Centre offers teaching programmes that are academically rigorous and multidisciplinary, attracting outstanding students and practitioners from around the world. Our degree and non-degree courses have two distinct aims: to further academic understanding of forced migration by training future researchers and teachers; and to cultivate the 'reflective practitioner' by enabling professionals who work in the field of forced migration to engage with key debates and to situate displacement in a broad historical and international context.

Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

This interdisciplinary nine-month master's degree offers an intellectually demanding route to understanding forced migration in contexts of conflict, repression, natural disasters, environmental change, and development. It places forced migration in an historical, global and human perspective, and encourages informed reflection on international and national responses to both cross-border and internal displacement.

Taught by leading experts in the field of forced migration, drawn from a range of disciplines including anthropology, geography, international law, politics, international relations, and sociology, students on the degree benefit from Oxford's exceptional academic environment and teaching tradition, featuring individual supervision by world-class scholars as well as small-group teaching. They explore forced migration through a thesis, a research methods project, and written exams.

Teaching takes place in small classes, usually between 7 to 25 students, to encourage active participation and to enable students to learn from each other. Teaching styles vary and include lectures, workshops, seminars and student presentations.

In the first term, students follow three core courses, which introduce the subject of forced migration from anthropological, political, and legal perspectives. In the second term they follow a fourth core course on moral philosophy, and across both terms all students take a course dedicated to research methods in the study of forced migration. In the second term, students also choose two option courses from a list, which changes from year to year.

In 2019–2020, our option courses included Refugee Economies, Advanced Human Rights and Refugee Law, UNHCR and World Politics, Dispossession and Displacement in the Modern Middle East, Postcolonial

Borders and Forced Migration, and Statelessness: Politics, Knowledge, Resistance.

In the third and final term, students write a 10,000 to 15,000-word thesis based on research conducted over the year.

This year, MSc thesis topics included: 'A Study of Shelters along the French-Italian Border,' 'Public, Street, and Contemporary Activist Art Concerning Refugees' and 'Who Should Resettle Oceania's Climate Migrants?' The Examiners' Prize was awarded to Elisa Sisto, who also received the thesis prize, jointly with Emma Walker-Silverman.

The students

Since 1998 the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies has drawn top-quality students from all over the world, including Rhodes, Marshall, Commonwealth and Fulbright scholars. Our most recent cohort came from 14 countries, many in receipt of bursary or other financial support. The degree is competitive, with over 220 applicants for the 25 places available on the course each year. To date over 400 students have graduated and gone on to doctoral degrees, law school and/or work relevant to human rights, refugees, and migration. Graduates are now employed in organisations such as UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Brookings and MacArthur foundations, as well as national governments and universities around the world.

For further information on the master's degree, please see the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/msc

Funding and studentships

Information about support available for study is provided on the Oxford Department of International Development's website. Various awards are available for students. For example, the Department offers a number of full scholarships (covering University and college fees, plus an amount towards maintenance), which are available to students on any ODID courses. There is also a range of scholarships for international students, such as Clarendon and Weidenfeld.

Find further information at: www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/content/fees-funding

Doctoral studies

The RSC is a vibrant training ground for young doctoral researchers. The Centre's staff supervise candidates undertaking research degrees at the Oxford Department of International Development and other centres within the University, and provide external supervision to candidates based elsewhere. Students come from various academic disciplines including development studies, politics and international relations, social and cultural anthropology, geography, and psychology.

Current topics under investigation include 'Navigating the Deputisation of Immigration Enforcement Functions in the UK', 'An Exploration of Gender in Humanitarian Practice in Lebanon', and 'The Human Right to Leave Any Country and Migration Control' (see the Academic Record for a complete listing of DPhil theses).

The RSC aims to secure further doctoral research scholarship funds, targeted where possible at students from the Global South. It is also committed to the development of additional postdoctoral opportunities at the Centre.

For further information about DPhil opportunities, visit the RSC website at www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/dphil

Radcliffe Square and St Mary the Virgin Church, Oxford



Myfanwy James DPhil candidate

Humanitarian Negotiation Cultures: An Exploration of the Processes, Practices and Cultures of Gaining and Maintaining Access to Areas Controlled by Armed Groups in North Kivu

My doctorate focuses on how humanitarians negotiate access in conflict zones. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, it has explored the everyday negotiations between Médecins Sans Frontières and armed groups in North Kivu, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The thesis unpacks what 'negotiating access' looks like on the ground: a social and political process of brokerage, perception management and interest seeking in a complex web of relations. I focus on people and their interactions because they determine how abstract humanitarian principles (neutrality, impartiality, and independence) and predesigned interventions are translated into practice on the ground. I describe how humanitarians endeavour to perform humanitarianism and their principles during daily interactions. I argue that the personal and collective identities of different humanitarians become instruments for access, with ambiguity as their central characteristic. This presents a paradox. Everyday humanitarian practice is shaped by, and reproduces, the very forms of difference that their egalitarian values seek to transcend.

Imogen Dobie DPhil candidate

Maritime Humanitarianism: The Provision of Humanitarian Aid at Sea 1978–2019

My research project focuses on the provision of humanitarian aid at sea. It combines historical and anthropological methods to explore several maritime projects: the chartering of a ship by Doctors of the World to assist Vietnamese 'boat people' in 1978; the American Coast Guard's search and rescue patrols in the Florida Straits during the 1980 Mariel Boatlift; the rescue of 438 asylum seekers by a Norwegian shipping vessel, the MV Tampa, in 2001; and the work of NGOs in the Mediterranean from 2015 to 2019. Drawing on these examples, my thesis examines the everyday work of maritime aid workers to ask what humanitarianism at sea entails, and it delves into the voices and perspectives of these aid workers to uncover the problems and politics of providing assistance in maritime contexts. I ask how maritime settings of aid may redefine what we mean by the term 'humanitarianism' and the way it might be theorised.

International Summer School in Forced Migration

Central to the RSC's annual calendar is the International Summer School in Forced Migration, which provides an exciting forum for the discussion of contemporary issues in the field and an opportunity for professionals from around the world to reflect on their work and each other's. We were very much looking forward to what would have been the Summer School's 30th anniversary this year. Unfortunately, however, in light of the coronavirus pandemic, the Summer School had to be cancelled for the first time in 2020. Planning is underway for the Summer School 2021.

For three decades, the School has welcomed participants from across the globe. The diversity of the approximately 70 participants hosted each year has always been a crucial resource of the School. It offers a unique opportunity for professionals of numerous nationalities to learn from one another and to form long-term networks that benefit both their personal and professional development.

The School prides itself in fostering interaction and dialogue between academics, practitioners and policymakers working in areas related to refugees and forced migration. Practitioners learn from the best academics working in forced migration as well as from their fellow practitioners, and vice versa. World-leading academics and accomplished professionals in the field of forced migration are invited to speak. Over the years, these speakers have included Filippo Grandi (UNHCR), Chaloka Beyani (LSE, former UN Special Rapporteur for IDPs), Alessandro Monsutti (Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Graduate Institute Geneva), E. Tendayi Achiume (UCLA, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance), Maher Abdulaziz (director of The Wait), and Sara Pantuliano (Overseas Development Institute).

Over the intensive two-week course, participants examine and assess different conceptualisations of forced migration, including legal, anthropological and political approaches. They analyse links between forced migration and processes and patterns of globalisation, and consider ways of addressing the tension between a globalised world of free circulation of capital, investment and resources, and the barriers to movement facing refugees and other migrants. Optional modules and evening sessions focus on issues such as internally displaced peoples, Palestinian refugees, human trafficking and smuggling, psychosocial support and refugee health.

Key issues raised by responses to forced migration are also examined – responses that involve numerous different organisations and agencies with different and often competing interests and values. The law module considers the 1951 refugee definition and sources of complementary protection, including under EU law and under the African refugee protection system. Emphasis on the institutional dimension of forced migration is continued in the negotiation module, which enables reflection on how to navigate the tensions, through the simulation of a humanitarian crisis.

Looking ahead, the RSC is committed to providing bursary support to deserving participants, particularly those from the Global South, who would otherwise be unable to attend this course. In 2019 ten participants received bursary funding thanks to generous support from the IKEA Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. At the RSC we continue to search for new avenues of funding in order to keep the Summer School one that reflects varied experiences of forced migration from across the world, so that it continues to be the success it is and a central plank of our outreach and dissemination work. We look forward to hosting it again in 2021.



Speakers from previous Summer Schools include (top row) Filippo Grandi (now UN High Commissioner for Refugees), Tswana Sithole and Professor Alison Phipps (University of Glasgow), Professor Alessandro Monsutti (Graduate Institute Geneva), and (bottom row) Professor Chaloka Beyani (LSE), Professor Geoff Gilbert (University of Essex), Professor E Tendayi Achiume (UCLA)

Visiting Fellowships

Visiting Fellowships provide an excellent opportunity for senior practitioners and policymakers as well as doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars and professional academics to study in a renowned intellectual environment. Visiting Fellows undertake a specific programme of self-directed study or research under the guidance of an assigned academic advisor. They have full access to the University's academic facilities and are able to attend the RSC's weekly Public Seminar Series and the core seminar series of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. They can also present their work in the RSC Work-in-Progress Seminar Series.

During the past year the RSC has welcomed Visiting Research Fellows and Student Visitors from a variety of countries with a diverse range of experiences and expertise. Through mutual exchange and learning, their presence has greatly enhanced the academic work of the RSC.

Details of this year's Visiting Fellows can be found in the Academic Record. For further information about the programme, visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/visiting-fellowships

Short courses

The RSC convenes occasional short courses that offer participants the opportunity to engage actively and critically with contemporary debates under the tutelage of distinguished experts in the field of forced migration. The courses, usually held over a weekend, focus on a particular issue related to forced migration, enabling participants to develop their expertise through a mix of lectures, working group exercises and interactive sessions. RSC short courses are suitable for experienced practitioners, graduate researchers, parliamentarians and staff, members of the legal profession, government officials, and personnel of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.

In early March 2020, Professor Dawn Chatty (RSC) and Professor Susan M Akram (Boston University School of Law) convened the course 'Palestine Refugees and International Law', held for the first time at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII). This two-day course places the Palestinian refugee case study within the broader context of the international human rights regime. It examines how the policies and practices of Middle Eastern states impinge upon Palestinian refugees.

For further information, visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study/short-courses

Kate Ogg

Visiting Research Fellow



I came to the RSC as a Visiting Research Fellow in Michaelmas term 2019. I was an MSc student at the RSC in 2011/2012 so it was lovely to return to this vibrant academic community in the beautiful setting of Queen Elizabeth House. My sponsor, Professor Cathryn Costello,

was very generous with her time and feedback on my research. Professor Costello asked me to contribute to the forthcoming Oxford Handbook on International Refugee Law, which she is editing with Professors Michelle Foster and Jane McAdam. I am very excited to be part of what I am sure will become the leading edited collection in the field. I was also very grateful to receive advice on a number of my research projects from RSC academics and students. The research I presented in the Work-in-Progress seminar ('Protection from Refugees') has been recommended for publication as a monograph with Cambridge University Press. My research on Palestinian refugees, presented as part of the migration law seminar series, is now forthcoming in *Human Rights Review* and *The Australian Yearbook of International Law*. I recommend to anyone doing research in refugee and forced migration studies to apply for a visiting position at the RSC. The interdisciplinary environment provides wonderful opportunities to shape and stretch your research. The MSc students also bring a fresh sense of energy, passion and creativity that is quite infectious.

Morgan Etzel

Student Visitor



As a Student Visitor at the RSC, I was able to use the time to continue work on my dissertation 'Navigating the Integration Regime in Times of Crisis: Syrian Refugees, Bureaucracy & the Imaginary'. I benefited from an environment at the RSC that brings together the most current and relevant

work of both academic experts and engaged actors. I had been focused on the situation for refugees in Germany for the last three years and at the RSC I was able to exchange ideas with researchers focused on similar subjects, like Naohiko Omata and Derya Özkul. I took advantage of the opportunity to present my work on Syrian refugees' experience with the conditional inclusion of integration programs in Germany at the Work-in-Progress seminar, where I received excellent feedback that helped me improve my dissertation. The RSC was a great working environment where I was also able to gain access to resources outside the Centre to write and research in associated Oxford libraries, and attend seminars, and gain insights from associated researchers like Ruben Andersson. I am grateful that I was able to participate with the help of my grant from the Hans-Böckler Foundation in this important access point at the RSC, which allows early-stage researchers the opportunity to engage with scholars working at the highest level of refugee research.

RSC Library

The Refugee Studies collections are housed in the Bodleian Social Science Library (SSL) where readers benefit from the wider social science context within which the specialist forced migration materials sit. These benefits include access to over 250,000 open shelf monographs and c.1,200 print-runs of social science related journals, as well as the stack request routes between the Bodleian Libraries.

Access to the unique grey literature collection of unpublished and semi-published material is still much appreciated by readers, and although unpublished materials are often now freely available online, the SSL still adds new print documents and serial issues to this collection. Access to over 5,700 full-text scanned images from the RSC's Forced Migration Online Digital Library remains searchable via the Search Oxford Libraries Online (SOLO) catalogue.

In addition to the grey literature and archive collections, the specialist book collection also continues to expand with the purchase of 65 new monographs this year for both research and teaching purposes. Book acquisitions were further supplemented by generous donations acquired via the RSC as well as weekly UK-published legal deposit books selected by the Subject Consultant for Forced Migration. New books and documents are listed on the SSL website, under the SSL New Books link.

Readers also benefited increasingly from electronic book and e-journal acquisitions. This was particularly crucial during the COVID-19 lockdown from 17 March when the Bodleian Libraries closed their physical sites to readers. There are presently over 5,000 e-books on refugee-related topics and over 200,000 electronic articles accessible via SOLO with 147 new book titles bought for the forced migration and international development field this year. In addition to the purchased ebooks a number of temporary arrangements were made with suppliers including the HathiTrust, JSTOR, BibliU, Project Muse, OUP's LawTrove, and Cambridge Core who kindly provided full-text access to their publications free of charge during lockdown until the end of the summer.

The Centre's MSc students benefited from the creation of 12 Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) this academic year. These are embedded in the Centre's Canvas VLE site, making collections of resources more accessible and relevant to students. Real time book availability and direct links to electronic books, chapters and articles is a great improvement to their learning environment.

Library staff continued to provide in-depth subject-specific inductions and tours for departmental and external readers including MSc students, Visiting Fellows and new staff. In addition, the Subject Consultant also offered tailored one-to-one research sessions, taught search-skills sessions for the MSc students, and answered a wide range of email enquiries. Topics included Somali refugees in Ethiopia and their relationship with water; refugee resettlements in East Africa in the 1960s; the mental health and well-being of children and youth on the move; and photography and refugee art activism and therapy in forced migration. The Libguide for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies also continued to be a well-used tool for locating online and print resources and is available at <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/refugee-studies>.

Contact Sarah Rhodes (sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) to make an appointment for subject-specific research queries or search SOLO for refugee-related material at <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. You can also visit the Bodleian Social Science Library website at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl.



At the Summer School 2019, Dr Jeff Crisp introduces the closing panel on the final day

Practising what you preach: sustainable energy access research in refugee settings

Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen

DPhil, completed August 2020

Many UN agencies claim to provide access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for refugees and displaced people, as part of their remit to protect vulnerable communities and enable sustainable development. However, Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen's research in Kenya and Rwanda shows that this is not always the case, with many actors struggling to find basic data to inform their decisions.

Energy access in refugee settings is a complex and varied topic. Many refugees currently receive support on firewood and fuels to enable access to basic cooking resources. However, reliable electricity for households and community facilities is rarely provided. Substantial investments by donors, such as the IKEA Foundation, have been made to support the deployment of renewable and sustainable energy technologies for refugee communities. Despite this, limited progress within UN institutions and their implementing partners has been achieved in delivering energy solutions.

My doctoral research at the RSC suggests a number of reasons for this. At a global level, political ambitions on energy within UN institutions seem to be constrained by limited funding and understanding of the complexity of energy issues. While at the local level in Kenya and Rwanda, staff face multiple pressures to deliver energy technologies in a similar way to shelter, health and protection interventions. My research highlighted that energy access solutions require a different approach, one centred on facilitating energy services and linking energy projects with livelihoods.

Furthermore, UN institutions have struggled to access primary data and evidence on energy access. This is often due to the limited number of technical and expert staff members within organisations such as UNHCR. It is not normally within the remit of UN agencies to directly implement technical projects, such as energy programming. Therefore, these organisations rely on the support and expertise of partners for these skills. For example, while UNHCR claims to enable "safe access to affordable, reliable and modern energy" for refugee and displaced communities, often this support takes the form of coordination and facilitation of services rather than direct delivery.

Academics have a core role to play in this system: supporting practitioners in identifying problems, designing appropriate solutions, and accessing empirical evidence on energy. As part of my research I collaborated directly with the UN Global Plan of Action for Sustainable

Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement (GPA) to support practitioners in accessing data and research. Specifically, identifying where knowledge and expertise is located within academic institutions and supporting researchers in contributing to policy-making.

The importance of the 'impact agenda' is widely acknowledged within academic circles, but in practice it can be difficult to share and embed the lessons we learn from our research. I argue in my research that inclusivity is vital and that a wide range of refugee communities, academics and researchers, as well as practitioners and humanitarian stakeholders, must be involved in the design and implementation of sustainable energy projects in order for them to be successful. For sustainable energy access in humanitarian settings, the GPA community offers a concrete way of achieving this.

Academics and practitioners interested in joining the GPA data and evidence working group, please reach out to: Twitter: @SarahLRosenberg



Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen



Practitioners and academics collaborate at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016

© Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen

Alumni retrospectives

We are proud to maintain strong connections with our alumni, whether they have studied for a DPhil, an MSc, or participated in our Summer School. Many of our DPhil students have gone on to develop academic careers in universities and research institutions across the world. Others have taken up positions in major international institutions such as the World Bank and the United Nations, or in non-governmental organisations. Students of the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies have gone on to doctoral degrees, law school, and work relevant to human rights, refugees, and migration.

James Souter

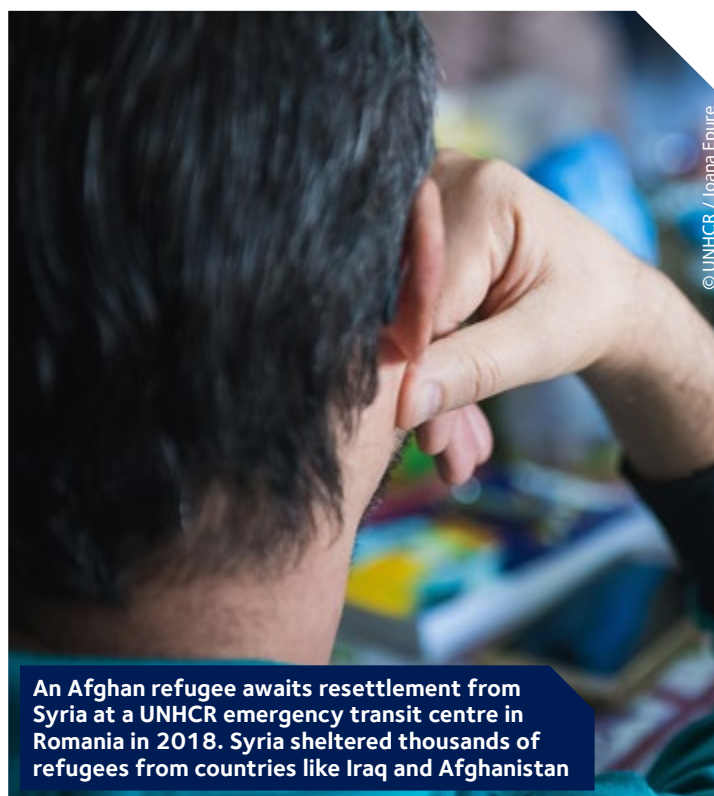
Lecturer in International Relations, University of Leeds

DPhil in International Development, 2014

Somehow, six years have already passed since I completed my DPhil at the Refugee Studies Centre, and I can see clearly how important my time there has been for my development and future career. I first entered the RSC to study for the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies in 2010, which gave me a solid grounding in the field and, especially through many lively group discussions as part of Matthew Gibney's 'Movement and Morality' course, developed my strong interest in the ethics and politics of refugee protection. The course also sparked my first ideas around states' reparative obligations to refugees, which I would go on to pursue during my DPhil studies and in my future work. After progressing directly onto the DPhil in 2011, I really benefited from the RSC's research community and the opportunity to interact with leading figures in the field, both within the Centre and across the University more widely. I was also very grateful for Matthew's encouragement to try to publish my work relatively early on in my postgraduate studies, and to aim high, which gave me greater confidence, and was important for securing academic work quickly afterwards.

I left the RSC in 2014, having had the opportunity to develop interests in both refugee protection and normative political theory more broadly. Since then, I have been based at the School of Politics and International Studies at the University of Leeds, first as a postdoctoral research fellow as part of a multidisciplinary project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and then in a permanent lectureship since 2016. I have been able to use the skills I developed at the RSC both to continue my work on the political theory of asylum, and to branch out into theoretical work and collaborate with colleagues on other pressing topics in international politics, such as the responsibility to protect and responsibility for nuclear weapons, as well as to teach and supervise undergraduate and postgraduate students in political theory and international relations more generally. I have also really appreciated the opportunity to return to Oxford to contribute to teaching on 'Movement and Morality' on different occasions.

My DPhil project has finally culminated in my forthcoming book, entitled *Asylum as Reparation: Refuge and Responsibility for the Harms of Displacement*, which will be published by Palgrave Macmillan. Building on the theoretical framework I developed during the DPhil, the book examines the reparative responsibilities of states to protect refugees for whose flight they are responsible – whether through military intervention, climate change or colonial legacies. It highlights the ethical significance of the causes of contemporary forced migration, which I believe have not been fully taken into account in normative theorising on refugees to date. The influence of the people I met and the work I did at the RSC runs consistently throughout this work, and strongly informs what I do as a lecturer more generally.



An Afghan refugee awaits resettlement from Syria at a UNHCR emergency transit centre in Romania in 2018. Syria sheltered thousands of refugees from countries like Iraq and Afghanistan



Overcrowded conditions at Moria camp, Lesbos, Greece, before the fire of September 2020

© UHCHR / Achilleas Zavallis

Minos Mouzourakis

Legal Officer, Refugee Support Aegean

MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, 2013–2014

The MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies is unparalleled at building critical thinking and at unlocking the intersections of different disciplines – law, politics, international relations – to shed light on the complexity and failings of refugee protection that too often give us pause. Six years after leaving the RSC, I find its teachings as relevant and captivating in Greece as I did at Queen Elizabeth House.

First, policy is no stranger to political theory. Moral debates in ‘Movement and Morality’ taught us to ask all the right, if seemingly abstract at the time, questions on global responsibility-sharing: should states be able to buy off their duties to protect refugees via financial or other means? I vividly recalled those reflections during my time at the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) in Brussels. They underpinned numerous policy papers and discussions with EU legislators, governments and civil society in the last four years of stalemate in the controversial reform of the Common European Asylum System, and the longer and tougher negotiations expected following a legislative relaunch by the European Commission this September.

Second, litigation involves politics. Insight into the liberal democratic dilemma underlying the US

response to ‘engineered migration’ from Cuba in the Mariel Boatlift in ‘Asylum and the Modern State’ could well apply to the political pressure facing our litigation work at Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) in Athens. Greek courts have refused to release refugees unlawfully detained after Greece suspended access to its asylum system last spring, citing an ‘asymmetrical threat’ from Turkey in the form of large-scale movement of people across borders.

Finally, ‘practitioner’ and ‘academic’ are not antithetical identities. Striving for and maintaining a foothold in the academic world offers us the time and space for research and critical thinking that we often miss in legal, policy or government careers, and ultimately shapes us into better practitioners. The opportunity to learn from and work with leading refugee law scholars like Professor Cathryn Costello to this day is a privilege I cannot overstate.

Refugee Support Aegean (RSA) is a non-profit organisation working on strategic litigation, monitoring human rights violations and legal, social and humanitarian support to refugees in Greece. Online at: <https://rsaagean.org/en/>

Find out about study opportunities at the Refugee Studies Centre at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/study

Food and forced migration

Tom Scott-Smith

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

Earlier this year Tom Scott-Smith published his book on the history of humanitarian hunger relief. Here he delves into the background of this work and its relationship to the study of forced migration.

The study of food and forced migration has a long history at the Refugee Studies Centre. For example, in March 1991, the then Refugee Studies Programme held a high-profile symposium in Oxford on the Nutrition Crisis amongst refugees. This was followed by a special edition of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* (volume 5, numbers 3-4, 1992). Affiliates and research fellows at the Centre published a range of articles on nutrition and refugees, with the work of David Keen, Jeya Henry, and Ken Wilson particularly notable in this regard. Much of this work drew attention to problems in the food provision for refugees: insufficient rations, a lack of choice for forced migrants, and the chaos and poor organisation involved in supply chains. Barbara Harrell-Bond's work, in particular, highlighted the distribution of culturally inappropriate commodities, the way that refugees were placed under unreasonable expectations to consume rather than sell food, and the manner in which refugees were always involved in feeding themselves. These were classic themes of Barbara's work, motivated both by her anthropological training and the robust activism of the RSP at the time.

Earlier this year I published my own book on the topic of emergency nutrition: *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*. It explains how approaches to hunger have changed over the past two centuries, with a range of unusual foodstuffs developed for the purpose of feeding people (including refugees) in emergencies. Much of the earlier work in the Refugee Studies Programme

took the language of nutritional science for granted. The problem, as articulated in these publications and symposia, was that rations for refugees were nutritionally insufficient, or that they did not appreciate refugees' own capacities for meeting nutritional needs. In this process the idea of nutritional charts for human requirements was rarely questioned, and as a result big issues remained unexplored about the historical emergence of humanitarian systems and the appropriateness of framing the problem in the terms of nutrients and nutritional science.

It certainly makes sense to adopt the language and analytical potential of nutrients if our aim is to influence and indicate the shortcomings of policy. Yet thinking about problems of hunger and food in terms of nutrients should also be recognised as a particular historical product, one that should be understood against the background of twentieth century politics and that is in many ways considerably limiting. Nutrients have enormous power as a way to quantify food, but the drawbacks of this analytical lens have been recognised in the trade press for some years, especially in the work of Michael Pollan, who urged consumers to ignore nutrients and think, instead, just of food. Along with scholars such as Gyorgy Scrinis, Pollan described current thinking about food as 'nutritionism': a reductionist approach that sees the only important part of eating to be the ingestion of nutrients, which are given various good and bad qualities according to the latest (partial) data on the role of food in maintaining bodily health.



Tom Scott-Smith



© UNHCR/Roland Schönbauer

Syrian refugee Abu Mohammed makes falafels at Bardaresh refugee camp in Iraq



© UNHCR/Firas Al-Khateeb

This reduction of food to nutrients, Pollan argued, not only ignores the profoundly important cultural and social value of food – the enjoyment we take from preparing it, the way it bonds families and societies together – but it also leaves many people seemingly unable to take the most basic decisions around what they consume, concerned about the invisible nutrient content of their food and the effects of ingesting it. As a result they over-rely on nutritional experts who are often in a close relationship with the food industry, adopting a seemingly neutral yardstick that leaves out as much as it sweeps into view. Pollan implored people, as a result, to take a critical perspective on nutrients and instead to ‘eat food’ – in other words, to buy and cook whole foods rather than the highly processed amalgamations of ingredients like dextrin, high fructose corn syrup, defatted soy flour, and other derivative ingredients with their often dubious nutritional claims. Pollan’s critique of nutritional science and the food industry has been very influential but it was never really applied to emergency nutrition and humanitarian relief.

In my recent book I delve into the history and application of nutritionism in relation to the international aid sector, examining how it has come to dominate not just everyday consumption decisions in the West but also food and hunger for refugees. I look at how, over the past century and a half, the humanitarian approach to hunger has involved an approach that redefines food as nutrients, tending to treat hunger as more of a biological condition than a socio-economic product. This is all part of the way that humanitarianism presents itself as an apolitical and technical project even if, beneath the surface, aid workers conceive and tackle human needs in a manner that is deeply influenced by culture, politics, and society.

Two brief examples from the book help to illustrate my point. The first comes from the immediate post-war period, when displaced people across Europe,

often starving and underfed, were given experimental new treatments for starvation. One of the most famous examples emerged in Belsen concentration camp, shortly after its liberation, when members of the British Medical Research Council administered protein hydrolysates, initially through injection, to emaciated people who ended up terrified as they were reminded of Nazi tests and invasive procedures. The second example comes from the 1950s and 1960s, when a wave of optimistic modernism generated the belief that starving populations could be fed on food grown in vats, based on fungi or algae. These single cell proteins reproduced at a remarkable rate, promising an efficient source of food that could be processed into nutrients and fed to the hungry – even though the final products had unfamiliar textures and tastes that few people found appetising.

These examples, which are explained and developed in chapters 6-8 of my book, illustrate the prevailing intellectual mood of the times. In the first case hunger was medicalised and food reduced to a formula that could be administered directly into the body. In the second, it was transformed into a developmental problem that might be solved through industrialisation and the mass-production of isolated nutrients. Neither example paid enough attention to the way that people actually consume food – to their tastes and preferences – as well as ignoring the profound cultural values that food plays in many societies: how mealtimes punctuate rituals, bring families together, and take on a social purpose that makes life worth living. Not all the examples in my book are quite so dramatic, but *On an Empty Stomach* examines complex compromises that emerge in humanitarian action between the need to calculate efficient responses in terms of a quantitative yardstick, and the need for sensitive and culturally appropriate quality of care.

On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief is published by Cornell University Press.

The private sector and refugee economies: evaluating the IKEA Foundation's livelihoods programmes in the Dollo Ado camps

Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs

Between 2009 and 2011, hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees crossed into Ethiopia, fleeing a mixture of conflict, famine and drought. International organisations set-up a humanitarian response near the border town of Dollo Ado. The surrounding area was arid and isolated, with limited infrastructure. Five refugee camps soon emerged, which today host 160,000 refugees. Initially, the camps offered few opportunities. The risk was that these camps would become like so many other camps around the world, meeting basic needs, but potentially leaving people in limbo for decades.

During a seven-year period, the IKEA Foundation committed around \$100m to support UNHCR in piloting an alternative model of refugee assistance, based on building the local economy and supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities for both refugees and the nearby host community. The investment represents the largest ever private sector investment in refugee camps. So nearly a decade later, what, if anything, can the world learn from the IKEA Foundation's investment in Dollo Ado? Last year, we undertook an evaluation to assess the impact of the Foundation's livelihoods programmes in Dollo Ado to examine their successes and failures, and see what insights they offer.

One of the model's key innovations has been a series of 'cooperatives' – membership-based income-generating groups. The cooperatives typically involve an equal number of refugees and host community members. Members receive vocational training and access to basic inputs, and usually share profits among the group. The intention is that, over time, external support can be reduced, and members will have access to sustainable livelihoods. The cooperatives have been designed to focus on areas in which there is a market-based demand or a social need. The cooperatives exist across the camps, and cover areas such as agriculture, livestock, energy and the environment, and microfinance. The cooperatives are still at an early stage, and have so far had different levels of success.

In the case of agriculture, the Foundation financed the construction of 29 km of irrigation canals to transport water directly to the fields, creating 1000 hectares of irrigated cropland, enough for 1000 refugee and 1000 host community cooperative members to farm their own plot, growing crops such as onions, maize, and watermelons, which are sold at local markets inside the camps or to large commercial buyers. 87% of refugee members told us they now have a higher income than before, and membership has measurably boosted

self-esteem and improved the relationship between refugees and the host community.

However, there are interesting qualifiers to the success. When we compared the income of refugee farmers within the cooperative with refugee farmers outside the cooperative, we found that those farming outside of the cooperative (as share-croppers or farm labourers) make 50 USD more per month. This seems to be because the cooperative farmers are growing different – and less lucrative – crops. They tend to be risk averse and plant staple crops like corn and fodder maize for their livestock, which sell for less; while non-cooperative farmers grow more lucrative but higher risk crops like onions (the retail price for onions is 8 times higher per kilogram than for maize fodder). The reason underlying this seems to be decision-making processes



Alexander Betts



**Transport business
in Bokolmany camp**



© Raphael Bradenbrink

Dollo Ado camp, Ethiopia

and power-relations within the cooperatives, as well as selling to different markets; the cooperatives mainly within the camps, and local private farms beyond the camps. The example highlights the important role that infrastructure can play in kick-starting economic activity, as well as the potential for agriculture even in remote, arid regions. But it also reveals the need to understand how coordination and power relations work within the cooperatives, and the importance of market linkages beyond the camps.

From a commercial perspective, the most successful livelihood projects have related to the so-called livestock value chain. The IKEA Foundation has supported infrastructure development and cooperative creation at different stages of the value chain: wholesale (livestock trading), retail (meat selling and milk selling), and support services (such as slaughter and animal health). These livestock value chains now exist in all five camps and include refugee and host communities alike. We surveyed nearly 200 meat selling cooperative members. They reported higher income and consumption levels than before, better welfare outcomes than the general population, and improved relationships with the host community. Overall, the livestock cooperatives have been successful because the value chain model is based on strong market linkages. On the demand side, a large proportion of refugees and the host community regularly eat meat and consume milk, and the Dollo Ado livestock market is well-connected to the regional livestock market with opportunities for export to Somalia and Kenya. On the supply side, the business model offered opportunities for specialisation based on people's pre-existing skills and experiences.

It is precisely the absence of these market linkages that has shaped the commercial failure of another of the cooperative models: the firewood cooperatives. For more than 95% of all households, firewood is the main source of cooking fuel. However, cooking with wood can be harmful to health and the environment. Most trees around the camps have been cut down. In order to collect firewood, many women have to walk long distances beyond the camps, and face risks of sexual and gender-based violence. In response, the IKEA Foundation recognised the local abundance of an alternative wood source, widely regarded as invasive and a nuisance – called *Prosopis*. And so they created cooperatives, comprised of female firewood collectors, to import *Prosopis* into the camps, and transform it into

charcoal briquettes for cooking. The hope was that this would create livelihoods, improve protection outcomes, and be better for the environment.

So far, however, the project has not worked. One of the main reasons is, in contrast to the livelihoods value chains, it has been based on weak market linkages. People have not bought the briquettes, production costs have been higher than envisaged, and the price of *Prosopis* has increased rapidly with rising demand and declining supply. Unable to earn a living, many cooperative members have returned to collecting firewood.

These three examples illustrate just some of the IKEA Foundation's highly innovative livelihoods work in Dollo Ado. Other important cooperatives include its solar energy cooperatives and its microfinance programmes, which operate across all the camps. The solar energy cooperatives have created training opportunities and provided solar power to businesses and health centres, but struggled to generate sustainable livelihoods. The microfinance projects have provided more than 500 loans to refugees and the host community, with an emphasis on supporting retail business activities.

The IKEA Foundation's work in Dollo Ado is unprecedented in its attempt to use private sector investment to promote market-based development in a refugee-hosting region. Its cooperatives model has improved the income and living standards of thousands of refugees and host community members in and around the Dollo Ado camps. Of course, there is still a long way to go; income levels remain low and most refugees in the camps remain reliant upon aid. And not all of the Foundation's programmes have played out as intended. However, they offer a unique opportunity to learn. They demonstrate the potential for the United Nations to collaborate with the private sector, offer crucial insights into how to build sustainable economies in remote refugee-hosting regions, and provide a starting point for reimagining refugee assistance beyond encampment.

Betts, A., Marden, A., Bradenbrink, R., and Kaufmann, J. (2020) 'Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado' (Oxford: RSC) is available on the RSC website.

‘Stateless’ alternatives to humanitarianism

Dilar Dirik

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow

We introduce here the work of Dr Dilar Dirik, the new Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, based at the RSC and at Lady Margaret Hall. Her research at the RSC builds on her past work on revolutionary women’s struggles, freedom concepts and radical democracy in Kurdistan, with a focus on displacement in the Middle East region.

Many communities and movements engaged in justice-seeking in the context of political violence draw on sets of values other than those that inform international institutions. Several feminist scholars from the Global South point out the tensions between discourses around human rights and liberal democracy and indigenous claims to sovereignty and self-determination (e.g. Smith, 1999; Walia, 2003; Grande, 2004). Recent literature on Palestine pushes an understanding of Israeli settler colonialism beyond contemporary international legalistic frameworks by stressing the wider historic, social, and epistemic destruction of Palestinian life (e.g. Hawari et al, 2019; Jaber, 2019).

The refugee camps organised by the Kurdish freedom movement exemplify how ideas that dominate humanitarian systems and discourses can stand at odds with local political projects. As spheres of multiple layered statelessness, they raise interesting questions around sovereignty and humanitarianism.

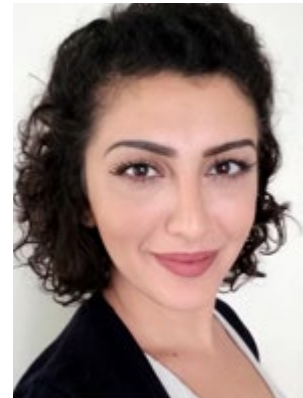
Since 2014, I have been conducting ethnographic research with (mainly women) guerrilla fighters, displaced people, political activists, and community organisers affiliated to the Kurdish freedom movement. One of the recurrent themes in my fieldwork across the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Syria and Turkey, including refugee camps, is the view that issues around forced displacement are inherently connected to the larger struggle against capitalism, patriarchy and the nation-state. This is due to the fact that the Kurdish freedom movement – defined as the structures broadly affiliated to the ‘democratic confederal’ project proposed by leader and political prisoner Abdullah Öcalan (2010) – takes the Kurdish people’s ‘statelessness’¹ as a starting point to imagine and develop alternatives to the nation-state (Jongerden & Akkaya, 2013). Defining the state as a 5,000-year-old system of organised violence, power and exploitation, it claims to develop practices of autonomy outside of it.

In recent years, in the context of the fight against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS, hereafter Daesh), these ideas were able to show their ability to work in action, as various elements of the revolutionary Kurdish struggle directly responded to unfolding humanitarian catastrophes – sometimes faster than governments and agencies. For the first time on a greater scale, the movement began practicing its own way of organising displaced communities, based on Öcalan’s ‘radical democratic, women’s liberationist and ecological paradigm’. Today, there are several refugee camps in Kurdistan that organise themselves through a

confederal system of autonomous, self-organising grassroots structures.

The rescue of the Ezidi community during the Daesh genocide in August 2014² was the first of multiple instances of armed Kurdish groups’ humanitarian interventions in the context of recent episodes of war and forced displacement in Iraq and Syria. As the genocide unfolded, a small group of guerrillas of the Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK), who had arrived from the Qandil mountains, was joined by the People’s Protection Units (YPG) and the Women’s Protection Units (YPJ), based in Kurdish-held Northern Syria, to take the Ezidis to Syria. Several thousand Ezidis remained trapped on Mount Sinjar but were supported by reinforcements of these Kurdish armed groups.³

The first shelter that was established for the Ezidis after the genocide is the ‘Newroz’ refugee camp, which I first visited in November 2014.⁴ It was set up by the democratic autonomous self-governance of the majority Kurdish regions of Northern Syria. This geographical area is collectively referred to as “Rojavayê Kurdistanê” (western Kurdistan) by the Kurdish community. Rojava began building its autonomous system along Öcalan’s ideas in 2012, in



Dilar Dirik



Protesting Ezidi community and guerrillas on Mount Sinjar on the first anniversary of the ISIS genocide

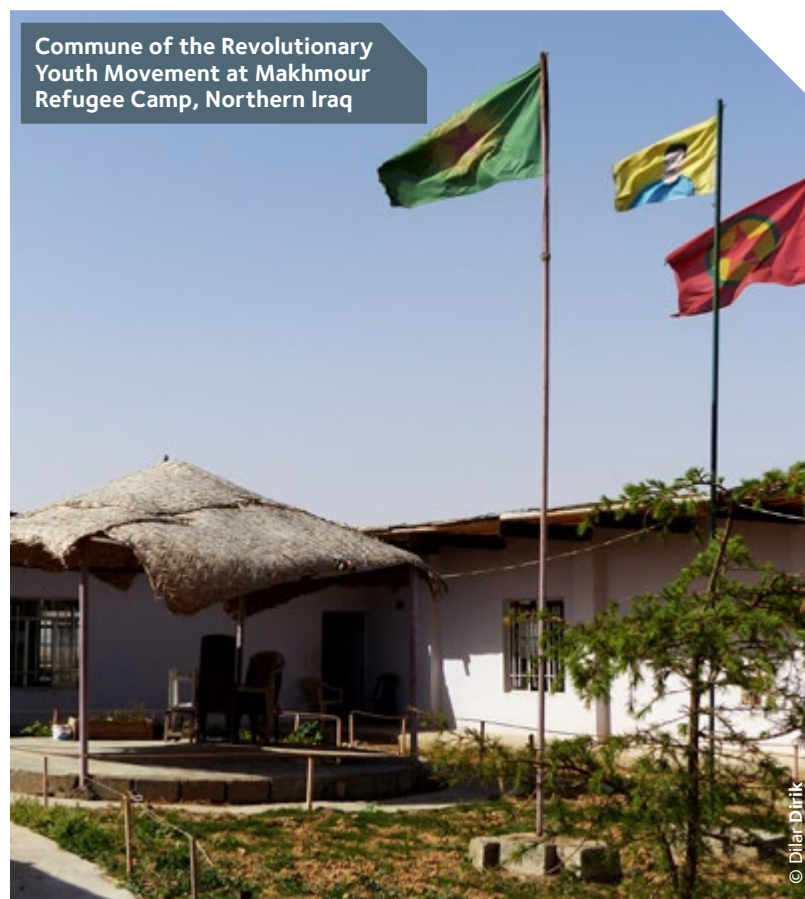
© Dilar Dirik

the context of the war in Syria (see Knapp et al, 2016; Üstündağ, 2016).⁵ In 2014, some sections within the Ezidi community began organising themselves along the movement’s proposals for autonomous self-governance. In this context, the Ezidi refugees in Rojava also started forming their assemblies, including autonomous women’s assemblies, at the Newroz Camp.

Handling humanitarian catastrophe by building autonomy is a more than twenty-year-old practice of the movement. With its revolutionary assemblies, academies, cooperatives and communes, the Martyr Rustem Cudi Camp, officially known as the Makhmour Refugee Camp, has been organising itself based on the ideas of the Kurdish freedom movement since the 1990s. The camp is located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and consists of a Kurdish community from Northern Kurdistan/Turkey which fled the Turkish state’s systematic village destructions at the time. While receiving limited assistance from UNHCR, the residents insist on an independent, explicitly political form of revolutionary self-determination.⁶ The various assembly structures view themselves as political actors with important roles to play in the anti-colonial struggle.

All of these experiences of the movement handling forced displacement without outside help proved valuable when the Turkish army began invading Rojava in 2018.⁷ Displaced women that I interviewed in Rojava stressed that although the occupation of Afrin systematically destroyed all of their autonomous women’s institutions, they continued their previous efforts in displacement.

The failure of humanitarian institutions during the Ezidi genocide and Turkey’s invasions of Rojava affirmed the movement’s perspectives in the eyes of many Kurdish people. Many of the women that I interviewed across different movement-led refugee camps in Iraq and Syria, having been exposed to the movement’s ideology and practice, explicitly stated that they did not believe that states or global institutions could bring them protection or justice, since they were built on the very same system that causes violence to begin with: the capitalist, patriarchal nation-state. To many such organised refugee communities, meaningful justice and peace can only come about through system change and social transformation. Many of the refugees I spoke to described dominant humanitarian systems as ‘statist’



and as having a pacifying effect on their resistance struggles.

Often, terms such as ‘self-reliance’, ‘grassroots democracy’, or ‘empowerment’, which have roots in social movements for radical change, are appropriated by humanitarian organisations. This can erase explicitly political demands of communities for decolonization and sovereignty. In Kurdistan, the recent surge in NGO work and media reporting on women’s experiences with Daesh’s sexual violence tends to overly focus on women’s ‘vulnerability’ and ‘victimhood’. This often renders invisible – or even controversial – local women’s struggles for radical system change, redistribution of resources, self-government or autonomy. Taking seriously local knowledge and methodologies that centre demands for liberation can offer more holistic understandings of issues around forced displacement beyond managerial approaches to humanitarianism.

Footnotes

¹ The term ‘statelessness’ is a legal term to describe the status of a lack of citizenship. Although some Kurdish people are also legally stateless, the Kurds often refer to ‘statelessness’ to point out their lack of an internationally recognised state or status as a nation, divided across Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

² In 2014, Daesh rapidly conquered large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq. On 3 August 2014, the group raided Sinjar (in Kurdish: Shengal) and murdered 5,000 Ezidi men and kidnapped and enslaved 7,000 women and children according to UN estimates. In the aftermath of the genocide, several mass graves were found in the area. Thousands of Ezidi women and children remain missing.

³ The Kurdistan Regional Government’s ruling party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, in charge of the region’s security, had previously deserted its positions in Sinjar at the beginning of the Daesh attack.

⁴ Newroz is a regionally celebrated ancient spring festival, which carries particular symbolic meaning in Kurdish culture as a day of rebirth through resistance and uprising.

⁵ This region had already been hosting IDPs from other parts of Syria since 2011.

⁶ For more information on Makhmour Refugee Camp, see the podcast of ‘Kurdish women’s knowledge of the state: from guerrilla to the refugee camp’, RSC Public Seminar Series, March 2020.

⁷ In January 2018, the Turkish state launched Operation ‘Olive Branch’, against the majority Kurdish region of Afrin in northwestern Syria, displacing 300,000 people, most of whom live in self-organised refugee camps in the Shehba region at the time of writing.

URL links to references cited are available in the pdf version of this report.

Events

The RSC convenes a diverse range of events each year, including public seminars, workshops, and conferences. These include major conferences on Refugee and Forced Migration studies, weekly public and work-in-progress seminars, and the Annual Harrell-Bond and Elizabeth Colson public lectures. We believe it is important to engage both at a 'local' level, whether with the local Oxford community or UK civil society, and beyond with the international community.

Annual Lectures



Dame Marina Warner delivers the Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019

This year's Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture took place on 30 October 2019 at St Anne's College. Dame Marina Warner delivered a lecture titled **The Map is Not the Territory: Story-making, Place and Performance**, in which she explored the potential of imaginative tale-spinning in establishing a sense of place and belonging, drawing upon her current project 'Stories in Transit'. This project organises storytelling workshops in the UK and in Palermo, bringing young migrant students together with artists, writers and musicians. It aims to establish the right of displaced individuals to cultural expression, to encourage story-making and to inspire participants to draw on their own traditions and imagination.

Dame Marina Warner is a writer of fiction, criticism and history. Her works include novels and short stories as well as studies of art, myths, symbols and fairy tales. She is a Distinguished Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and Professor of English and Creative Writing at Birkbeck College, University of London.

The Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture takes place in Michaelmas term each year. It is named in honour of Dr Barbara Harrell-Bond, the founding Director of the Refugee Studies Centre.

To listen to a podcast of the lecture visit: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/ahbl2019-podcast

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020

Professor Laura Hammond (SOAS University of London) gave this year's Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture on 24 June, held online for the first time. As the COVID-19 virus has spread across the world, many citizens have lived under some form of restricted movement. For migrants, refugees, and others for whom mobility is an essential, even a life-saving act, these restrictions pose particular risks.

The lecture, titled **Mobility and Immobility in the Time of Coronavirus: Reflections from Long-term Study of Migration and Displacement**, explored how forced migration studies can help us to better understand the monumental implications of the coronavirus pandemic on communities involved or affected by migration and displacement. The lecture focused on the impact of the pandemic on the Horn of Africa region, where there is a large refugee population.

Laura Hammond is Professor of Development Studies at SOAS University of London. She is an anthropologist with research interests including food security, conflict, forced migration, and diasporas. She has worked in the Horn of Africa since 1993.

The Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture is held in Trinity term, and is named after Professor Elizabeth Colson, a renowned anthropologist.

Watch the lecture at: www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre



Professor Laura Hammond gives the Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020 online

Workshops

Identities in Times of Conflict and Displacement: The Case of Syria

Dr Kathrin Bachleitner convened this workshop at Lady Margaret Hall in November 2019. Speakers included Professor Jennifer Todd (University College Dublin), Dr Felix Berenskoetter (SOAS, University of London), Daniel Gerlach (Candid Foundation / zenith), Dr Omar Al-Ghazzi (LSE), and AlHakam Shaar (Central European University). Discussions covered topics such as political violence and the formation of collective identity, Islamism and the political field of the Syrian uprising, and conflict dynamics and the asymmetry of sectarian identities in Syria.

Recognising Refugees

Convened by Professor Cathryn Costello and Dr Derya Özkul, this workshop was held at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung in December 2019. The workshop formed part of the DeZIM-Kolleg project by the DeZIM Research Community (of which Professor Costello is a DeZIM-Fellow), and part of the Recognising Refugees strand of the Refugees are Migrants (RefMig) project at the RSC. Scholars were invited to present work-in-progress on refugee recognition. Papers covered empirical legal studies, political science and sociology. Full details can be found on the RefMig website: www.refmig.org

Public Seminar Series

Each term the RSC holds a series of public seminars, held on Wednesday evenings, usually at Queen Elizabeth House. This year the series have focused on, in Hilary term, Feminism, Categorisation, and Forced Migration; in Trinity term, Refugee-led Assistance and Protection in the Context of COVID-19; and in Michaelmas term, a variety of timely issues relating to different aspects of forced migration.

Feminism, Categorisation, and Forced Migration

Hilary term 2020

Convened by Dr Catherine Briddick

The Hilary term public seminar series explored a range of topics in refugee law, politics and history with particular attention being paid to feminist and/or gendered approaches to displacement and mobility and the categorisation(s) of people as ‘refugees’, ‘citizens’, ‘settlers’ or ‘migrants’. Speakers included Dr Dilar Dirik (RSC and Lady Margaret Hall) speaking on ‘Kurdish women’s knowledge of the state: from the guerrilla to the refugee camp’, Dr Victoria Canning (University of Bristol) discussing ‘corrosive control in the lives of women seeking asylum in bordered Britain’, and Professor Gurminder K Bhambra (University of Sussex) speaking on ‘colonial mobilities and global inequality: why European settlers ought not to be regarded as migrants’.

#ByRefugees: Refugee-led Assistance and Protection in the Context of COVID-19

Trinity term 2020

Convened by Professor Alexander Betts and Andonis Marden (Refugee Studies Centre), Shaza Al Rihawi, Anila Noor, Najeeba Wazefadost, and Mustafa Alio (Global Refugee-Led Network)

Our online Trinity term seminar series focused on refugee-led assistance and protection in the context of COVID-19. It featured panels of individuals whose work is shaping how we understand and support refugee-led responses during crisis. Their accomplishments – whether as practitioners, policy influencers, funders, or community responders – challenge conventional top-down approaches to humanitarian assistance. These approaches are increasingly important in the current context, in which traditional humanitarian capacity has been stretched and forced to adapt. Refugee-led organisations are on the frontline of the response, in both refugee camps and cities. Panels covered topics such as refugee-led responses in urban contexts; how international organisations can support refugee-led organisations; philanthropic support for refugee-led initiatives; refugees in international humanitarian organisations; and refugee-led responses in camp settings. Many panellists were refugees.

The #ByRefugees seminar series convenors in Trinity term



Podcasts of seminars are available on the RSC website: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/news or on SoundCloud: www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre

Videos of the Trinity term series are available at www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre

Outreach

At the Refugee Studies Centre, outreach activities have always played a key role in advancing refugee issues and developing a global community of academics, policymakers, and practitioners working in the field of forced migration. Dedicated outlets for a variety of academic and non-academic materials have promoted the work of researchers and practitioners, and given a voice to refugees themselves.

The RSC's varied portfolio of outputs includes publications such as the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, information resources, public events, and networking initiatives that promote influential engagement with a range of academics, policymakers, and practitioners. *Forced Migration Review*, the RSC's flagship publication, is the most widely read publication on forced migration. It is available free of charge, in print and online, in four languages – English, Arabic, French, and Spanish. Our Working Paper series numbers over 130, all available to download from the RSC website. We also have a 'Research in Brief' series which aims to make our academic research more accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

We keep in regular touch with supporters through our Monthly News Update, emailed to subscribers. We also produce, in print and online, an annual newsletter. To subscribe to our newsletters or to receive alerts about events, courses and *Forced Migration Review*, fill in the form on our website at: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/forms/general/connect

Digital communications

RSC website

The RSC website is central to communicating our research and providing information about our courses, events and public engagement. It provides a wealth of information about the RSC's research, as well as profiles of staff members and a searchable database featuring both RSC publications and external publications by RSC academics. Prospective students can learn about our postgraduate and professional teaching programmes, and read about the experiences of our alumni.

For more information visit www.rsc.ox.ac.uk



Rethinking Refuge

Launched on World Refugee Day 2019, the Rethinking Refuge platform provides short, research-based articles aimed at rethinking refugee issues from a variety of angles, such as politics, international relations, ethics, law, history, and anthropology. The platform seeks to bridge the gap between scholarly research, policy-making, and public understanding, and in so doing to engage meaningfully with the challenge of forced displacement in the 21st century. The platform's editor is Dr Evan Easton-Calabria. It was made possible through generous grants from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and DELMI (Migration Studies Delegation).

Online at www.rethinkingrefuge.org

Social networking and multimedia

We engage with supporters, students, academics, practitioners, policymakers and others through a wide range of media. In 2019–2020 our social media audience has continued to grow:

- On **Twitter**, we now have over 36,800 followers, an increase of 3,000: [@refugeestudies](https://twitter.com/refugeestudies)
- On **Facebook**, we have over 2,800 new followers, taking us to a total of over 24,800: www.facebook.com/refugeestudiescentre
- Our podcast series registered over 4,000 plays over the past 12 months on our **SoundCloud** channel. This provides podcasts of the RSC Public Seminar Series, our two Annual Lectures, plus special seminars and events such as the RSC conference: www.soundcloud.com/refugeestudiescentre
- Our **YouTube** channel has received over 8,700 views in the past year. Video playlists include News, with staff media interviews; Events, such as the 2017 RSC Conference 'Beyond Crisis: Rethinking Refugee Studies' and the Trinity term 2020 seminar series #ByRefugees; and Studying in Oxford: www.youtube.com/refugeestudiescentre

New books

On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief



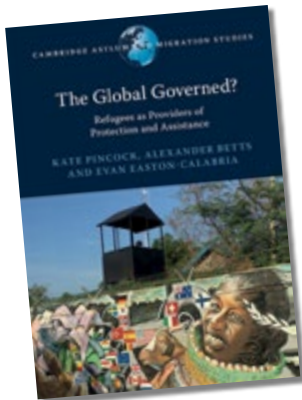
Tom Scott-Smith examines the history of humanitarian nutritional technologies, high protein foods, and emergency rations for refugees since the early 19th century. He argues that humanitarianism is not a simple story of progress and improvement, but rather is profoundly shaped by sociopolitical conditions, by culture, politics and society. (Cornell University Press, April 2020)

When States Take Rights Back: Citizenship Revocation and Its Discontents

Matthew J Gibney has co-edited this new volume focusing on citizenship revocation. *When States Take Rights Back* (E. Fargues, E. Winter, M.J. Gibney, eds) draws on contributions by international experts in history, law, political science, and sociology, offering a rare interdisciplinary and comparative examination of citizenship revocation in five countries, revealing hidden government rationales and unintended consequences. (Routledge, March 2020)



The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance

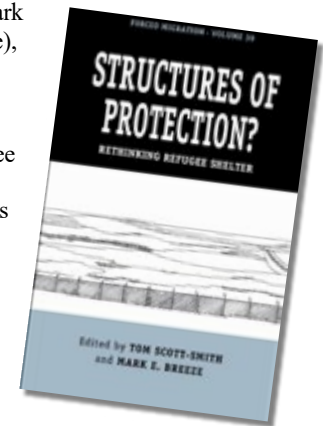


From the project of the same name, this book by Kate Pincock, Alexander Betts and Evan Easton-Calabria looks at how refugee-led organisations emerge, the forms they take, and their interactions with international institutions, based on fieldwork in Uganda and Kenya. With the dominant humanitarian model being premised upon a provider-beneficiary relationship, the book offers an alternative vision for more participatory global governance, of

relevance to other policy fields including development, health, peacekeeping, and child protection. (Cambridge University Press, March 2020)

Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter

Edited by Tom Scott-Smith and Mark E Breeze (University of Cambridge), this volume questions what shelter is and how we can define it. It comprises essays from a range of authors on different forms of refugee shelter, with a view to widening public understanding about the lives of forced migrants and developing theoretical understanding of this oft-neglected facet of the refugee experience. The book is a product of a conference at St Cross College in 2018. (Berghahn Books, May 2020)



Journal special issues

Cathryn Costello has co-edited (with Itamar Mann) a new special issue of the *German Law Journal* on **Border Justice: Accountability for Human Rights Violations in the Context of Migration Control**. She also co-authored the following two articles within the issue: 'Border justice: migration and accountability for human rights violations' (with Itamar Mann), and 'Hard protection through soft courts? Non-refoulement before the United Nations Treaty Bodies' (with Başak Çalı and Stewart Cunningham).

Evan Easton-Calabria has co-edited (with Claudia Skran) the March 2020 issue of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* which focuses on **Rethinking refugee self-reliance**. Papers include 'Self-reliance and social networks: explaining refugees' reluctance to relocate from Kakuma to Kalobeyei' and 'The Kalobeyei settlement: a self-reliance model for refugees?', by Alexander Betts, Naohiko Omata and Olivier Sterck; and 'Warriors of self-reliance: the instrumentalization of Afghan refugees in Pakistan', by Evan herself.



Forced Migration Review

Forced Migration Review (FMR) is the in-house publication of the Refugee Studies Centre, published in four languages and disseminated globally in print and online. FMR is free of charge, supported financially by a range of donors.

Over the past 12 months, the FMR team has published three issues of FMR:

FMR 62

Return: voluntary, safe, dignified and durable?

(October 2019)

Voluntary return in safety and with dignity has long been a core tenet of the international refugee regime. In the 23 articles on 'Return' in this issue of FMR, authors explore various obstacles to achieving sustainable return, discuss the need to guard against premature or forced return, and debate the assumptions and perceptions that influence policy and practice. This issue also includes a mini-feature on 'Towards understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement', prepared to inform discussions at the first Global Refugee Forum which took place in December 2019.

FMR 63

Cities and towns

(February 2020)

Cities and towns are on the frontline of receiving and welcoming people who have been displaced. In this issue of FMR, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, representatives of cities and international city-focused alliances, and displaced people themselves debate the challenges facing both the urban authorities and their partners, and the people who come to live there. We were delighted to include a Foreword by Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol and member of the global Mayors Migration Council.

FMR 64

Climate crisis and local communities / Trafficking and smuggling / COVID-19: early reflections

(June 2020)

Unusually, this issue of FMR has three feature themes. The first focuses on the impact of the climate crisis on local communities, their coping strategies, lessons arising, and broader questions of access, rights and justice. The feature on trafficking and smuggling explores some of the current challenges, misconceptions, insights and innovations in these two areas. And in the shorter COVID-19 feature, authors offer preliminary reflections on the pandemic, focusing on the role of refugee-led organisations and the need for data to inform responses.

These and all previous issues are available at www.fmreview.org in HTML and PDF formats; articles in FMR 62 are also available (English edition only) as podcasts. Arabic, French and Spanish editions are accessible through the same website, using the relevant language tabs.

critical and innovative work... a wonderful resource... intriguing findings and thoughts from such a wide range of perspectives and places... outstanding work... a terrific publication...

Forthcoming themes

Recognising refugees • Effective practices on internal displacement – learning from GP20 • Mental health and psychosocial support • Missing migrants • Data • Public health/WASH including COVID-19 • Non-party States and protection. See www.fmreview.org/forthcoming

New-look Editors' briefing!

As part of our drive to reduce the environmental impact of FMR, we invite those readers who receive a print copy of our magazine to switch to our new-look Editors' briefing. This six-sided A4 briefing provides four pages of headline analysis of an issue's content plus a listing of all articles (including web/QR links). Take a look at www.fmreview.org/issue64/FMR64Editorsbriefing.pdf and let us know if you would be willing to switch. Email the Editors at fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

COVID-19 impact

FMR 63 was printed just as the pandemic led to office closures and suspension of many countries' postal services around the world. We halted mailings, eventually resuming distribution in July – initially only within Europe but with the hope of mailing all remaining copies shortly after.

Marion Couldrey and Jenny Peebles

FMR Editors

fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk

www.fmreview.org



Journal of Refugee Studies

The *Journal of Refugee Studies* (JRS) is published by Oxford University Press in association with the Refugee Studies Centre. The journal is edited by Dr Khalid Koser of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Switzerland. Dr Georgia Cole (Newnham College, Cambridge) is the Book Review Editor. The multidisciplinary journal provides a forum for exploring the dynamics and challenges of forced migration, and critically analysing national, regional and international responses, covering all categories of displaced people. Contributions that

develop theoretical understandings of forced migration, or advance knowledge of concepts, policies and practice, are welcomed from academics, policymakers and practitioners.

For further details, article abstracts, and information about how to subscribe to the journal, visit www.jrs.oxfordjournals.org. Members of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration may subscribe at a reduced rate.



Research in Brief

Avoiding refugee status and alternatives to asylum

Georgia Cole

Here Georgia Cole outlines why, in the context of a specific displaced population in Uganda (Eritreans in Kampala), individuals choose to avoid the asylum system, and what alternatives they both pursue and would prefer to it. Their responses point towards a practical set of changes that could significantly enhance protection within the asylum system in this context. They also point towards a preference for legal pathways to regularising individuals' statuses that are discrete from the refugee regime and its labels.

Exploring assumptions behind 'voluntary' returns from North Africa

Anne-Line Rodriguez

This brief presents ethnographic research conducted with returnees in Senegal that challenges the assumptions behind Assisted Voluntary Return programmes for migrants stranded in North Africa, i.e. that the risk of further mistreatment, together with 'reintegration' projects, will convince returnees to remain in their country of origin, or that, if not persuaded to stay, returnees will at least decide to obtain a visa to travel – which will ultimately lead to safer migration.

New and forthcoming briefs include:

Cash transfer models and debt in the Kalobeyei settlement, by Olivier Sterck, Cory Rodgers, Jade Siu, Maria Flinder Stierna, and Alexander Betts

IDPs in secondary cities: good practices and ongoing challenges from Ethiopia, by Evan Easton-Calabria, Delina Abadi, and Gezahegn Gebremedhin



New reports from the Refugee Economies Programme

The Refugee Economies Programme, led by Alexander Betts, has published five reports this year based on research in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities

examines the precarious economic lives of refugee communities in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, and their interactions with the host community.

Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia

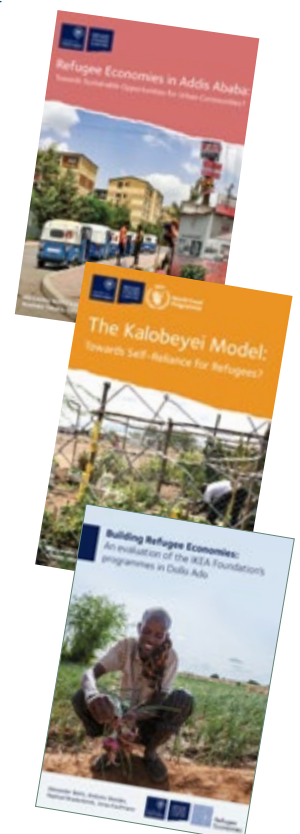
examines the economic strategies of Somali refugees in the cross-border economy of Ethiopia's Somali region. A Somali-language version of this report is also available.

The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees? outlines a conceptual model and indicators for measuring refugee self-reliance and applies it to the Kalobeyei settlement and Kakuma refugee camps context.

Doing Business in Kakuma: Refugees, Entrepreneurship, and the Food Market draws upon a business survey with food retailers to assess the impact of the 'Bamba Chakula' model of electronic food transfers and business contracts.

Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement looks at the relative effects of restricted versus unrestricted cash transfers to refugees.

The Programme has also published its evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's multi-year investment (totalling nearly US\$ 100 million) in UNHCR operations in the five refugee camps of Dollo Ado in the Somali region of Ethiopia. This is the largest private philanthropic donation that the UN Refugee Agency has ever received. The evaluation aimed to understand how the funding has impacted refugee and host communities in this borderland area. The report, **Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado**, is available online.



Fundraising and development

Our network of supporters has, over the last year, once again been of critical importance to the continued development of the RSC and the success of our research, teaching and outreach programmes. We would like to extend our recognition and gratitude not only to donors but also to our alumni, our cutting-edge researchers, our renowned emeritus colleagues, and the many policymakers and practitioners in our orbit. We continue to work with the Oxford University Development Office to identify new prospects and supporters for our work.

Over the last year we have continued to benefit from the three-year grant from the IKEA Foundation that supports the Refugee Economies research in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. This funding has also made possible a Junior Research Fellowship in International Relations in collaboration with Lady Margaret Hall that has deepened research on forced migration at Oxford. We are grateful to the World Food Programme for funding Refugee Economies research in Kenya, including on socio-economic outcomes for refugees in North-West Kenya.

The generous support of the Martin James Foundation has had a transformative effect on the Centre through the new Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration position. This position, held by Catherine Briddick, enables important research on subjects such as discrimination in immigration controls and family reunion policies and has also encouraged new research by our students.

We have also continued to receive the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) to advance the study of forced migration. A short-term extension to our funding arrangement has enabled the funding of a number of small research projects, as well as our online 'Rethinking Refuge' project.

Our new Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow, Dilar Dirik, has been a great addition to our teaching and research over the last year. We are extremely grateful to Ockenden International for support in this regard. We are happy to be working closely also with Lady Margaret Hall.

Our Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration, Cory Rodgers, continues to be an essential part of our Centre, both in research and teaching. We acknowledge the generous support of Campion Hall and Jesuit Refugee Service Europe in making this position possible.

An ongoing priority is to raise funds to support bursaries for participants from the global South, including refugees themselves, to be able to attend our annual Summer School, as well as to take the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The Summer School represents one of the most tangible ways in which we can have a direct impact on policy and practice. Both the Swiss Federal Department of

Foreign Affairs and the IKEA Foundation have been an essential source of bursaries for the Summer School in recent years.

We continue to be extremely thankful to the range of supporters who fund the work of *Forced Migration Review*. The co-editors fundraise for each specific issue, and the ongoing relationships they enjoy with governments, NGOs, and foundations are a central part of our ability to continue to publish relevant issues aimed to shape thinking among policymakers and practitioners.

Most of our work, including many of the research projects outlined in this Annual Report, depends upon external financial support. In many cases we are privileged to benefit from research council grants, including from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Economic and Social Research Council, but in other areas, philanthropic, governmental or private funding is essential. If you are interested in any aspect of our work, please do get in touch.

Donors

We are deeply appreciative to all of the donors listed below both for their financial support and their enthusiastic collaboration over recent years.

Act Church of Sweden	Jesuit Refugee Service
ADRA International	John Fell OUP Fund
Arts & Humanities Research Council	Leverhulme Trust
Australian Research Council	Martin James Foundation
British Academy	New York University
Catholic Relief Services–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	Ockenden Foundation
Cities Alliance/UNOPS	Ockenden International Trust
Cities of Refuge NWO VICI research project	Open Society Foundations
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Oxfam
Danish Refugee Council	Oxford-MLS Research Partnership
Dubai Cares	Refugees International
Economic & Social Research Council	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
Elizabeth Colson	Southern New Hampshire University
European Research Council	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
European Union	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein	Tufts University Feinstein International Centre
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs	UK Research and Innovation/ Global Challenges Research Fund
Happold Foundation	UNHCR
IKEA Foundation	Women's Refugee Commission
International Organization for Migration	World Economic Forum
	World Food Programme

Academic record

Books and edited volumes

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2020) *Collective Memory in International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2020) 'Ethnic and National Identity in Syria during Conflict and Displacement', *Nations and Nationalism*, special issue.

Costello, Cathryn (with I. Mann) (2020) 'Border Justice: Migration and Accountability for Human Rights Violations', *German Law Journal*, 21, special issue 3, 311–619.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with C. Skran) (Special Editors) (2020) 'Rethinking Refugee Self-Reliance', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, special issue, 33(1), 1–298.

Gibney, Matthew J (with É. Fargues and E. Winter) (eds) (2020) *When States Take Rights Back: Citizenship Revocation and Its Discontents*, Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

Omata, Naohiko (2019) *On the Inside: 401 Days of Fieldwork in Buduburam Camp in Ghana*, Wonderbox, Seoul, Korea (Korean translation).

Pincock, Kate, **Betts**, Alexander, and **Easton-Calabria**, Evan (2020) *The Global Governed? Refugees as Providers of Protection and Assistance*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2020) *On an Empty Stomach: Two Hundred Years of Hunger Relief*, Cornell University Press.

Scott-Smith, Tom and **Breeze**, Mark E (eds.) (2020) *Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter*, Oxford: Berghahn Books, Forced Migration Series volume 39.

Chapters

Briddick, Catherine (2019) 'Some Other(ed) "Refugees"? Women Seeking Asylum Under Refugee and Human Rights Law', in S.S. Juss (ed.) *Research Handbook on International Refugee Law*, London: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp 281–294.

Chatty, Dawn (2019) 'Tribes in MENA Politics: the Levant Case', in R. Hinnebusch and J. Gani (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook to the Middle East and North African State and States System*, London: Routledge Publishers.

Chatty, Dawn (2019) 'Vignettes of Life in Sha'laan Between 1930–1970s', in T. Boissière and J.-C. David (eds.) *Chalaan 1920–2010*, Beirut: French Institute Press.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) 'Victim or Perpetrator? The Criminalised Migrant and the Idea of "Harm" in the Labour Market Context', in A. Bogg, J. Collins, M. Freedland, and J. Herring (eds.) *Criminality at Work*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 309–326.

Dirik, Dilar (2020) 'Only with you this broom will fly: Rojava, magic, and sweeping away the state inside of us', in C. Milstein (ed.) *Deciding for Ourselves: The Promise of Direct Democracy*, Edinburgh: AK Press, p. 199–229.

Gibney, Matthew J (2019) 'The Duties of Refugees', in D. Miller and C. Strachle (eds.) *The Political Philosophy of Refuge*, Cambridge University Press, pp. 132–153.

Gibney, Matthew J (2020) 'Deprivation of Citizenship through a Political Lens', in *The World's Stateless 2020: Deprivation of Nationality*, Amsterdam: Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion.

Irfan, Anne (2020) 'Whose Agency? UNRWA and the Palestinian refugees in history', in P. Stefanini (ed.) *UNRWA at 70: Palestinian Refugees in Context*, London: Al Jazeera Centre for Studies, p. 19–27.

Özkul, Derya (2019) 'Transnationalism', in C. Inglis, W. Li, and B. Khadria (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of International Migration*, SAGE Publishing.

Rodgers, Cory (2020) 'Hosting Refugees as an Investment in Development: Grand Designs versus Local Expectations in Turkana County, Kenya', in J. Lind, D. Okenwa and I. Scoones (eds.) *Land, Investment and Politics: Reconfiguring Eastern Africa's Pastoral Drylands*, London: James Currey.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2020) 'Places of Partial Protection: Refugee Shelter since 2015', in T. Scott-Smith and M. E. Breeze (eds.) *Structures of Protection? Rethinking Refugee Shelter*, Oxford: Berghahn Books, pp. 1–12.

Zetter, Roger (2019) 'From Humanitarianism to Development: Reconfiguring the international refugee response regime', in T. Bastia and R. Skeldon (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Migration and Development*, London: Routledge, pp. 353–362.

Articles

Betts, Alexander, **Memişoğlu**, Fulya, and **Ali**, Ali (2020) 'What difference do mayors make? The role of municipal authorities in Lebanon and Turkey's response to the Syrian refugee crisis', *Journal of Refugee Studies* (published online 20 March).

Betts, Alexander (with L. Kainz) (2020), 'Power and proliferation: explaining fragmentation in global migration governance', *Migration Studies* (published online 14 August).

Betts, Alexander, **Omata**, Naohiko, and **Sterck**, Olivier (2020), 'Self-reliance and social networks: explaining refugees' reluctance to relocate from Kakuma to Kalobeyei', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(1), 62–85.

Betts, Alexander, **Omata**, Naohiko, and **Sterck**, Olivier (2020) 'The Kalobeyei Settlement: a self-reliance model for refugees?', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(1), 189–223.

Betts, Alexander, **Easton-Calabria**, Evan, and **Pincock**, Kate (2020) 'Refugee-led responses in the fight against COVID-19: building lasting participatory models', *Forced Migration Review*, 64, 73–76.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Commentary: When hospitality turns into hostility in prolonged forced migration', *International Migration*, 58(3), 258–260.

Chatty, Dawn (2019) 'Modern ortadoğu'da zorunlu göç ve mülksüzleştirme' (Evren Demirci translator), Ankara: Koyu Siyah.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) 'Overcoming refugee containment and crisis', *German Law Journal*, 21 (1), 17–22.

Costello, Cathryn (with I. Mann) (2020) 'Border justice: migration and accountability for human rights violations', *German Law Journal*, 21, 311–334.

Costello, Cathryn (with B. Çalı and S. Cunningham) (2020) 'Hard protection through soft courts? Non-refoulement before the United Nations Treaty Bodies', *German Law Journal*, 21, 355–384.

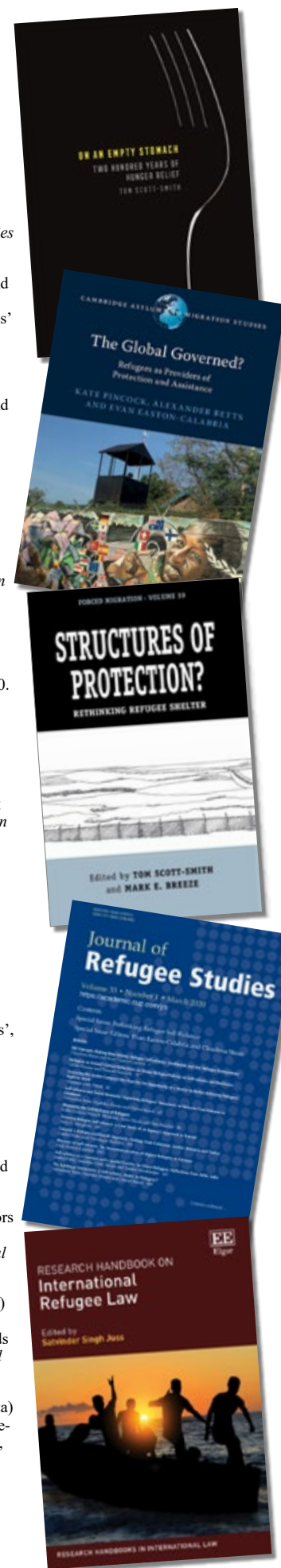
Dirik, Dilar (2020) 'Unbowed', *New Internationalist*, June 2020.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with M. Herson) (2019) 'In praise of dependency: dispersed dependencies and displacement', *Disasters*, 44(1): 44–62.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (2020) 'Warriors of self-reliance: the instrumentalization of Afghan refugees in Pakistan', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(1), 143–166.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with C. Skran) (2020) 'Old concepts making new history: refugee self-reliance, livelihoods and the "refugee entrepreneur"', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 33(1), 1–21.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with R. Hakiza) (2020) 'In the interest of saving: refugee-led micro-finance in Kampala, Uganda', *Development Policy Review* (published online 17 April).





Easton-Calabria, Evan (with J. Wood) (2020) 'Bridging, bonding, and linking? Syrian refugee-led organisations and integration in Berlin', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (published online 12 July).

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with D. Abadi and G. Gebremedhin) (2020) 'A call to action: mobilising local resources in Ethiopia for urban IDPs', *Forced Migration Review*, 63, 58–60.

Easton-Calabria, Evan (with F. Lozet) (2020) 'Counting urban refugees during COVID-19', *Forced Migration Review*, 64, 79–80.

Gibney, Matthew J (2019) 'Banishment and the pre-history of legitimate expulsion power', *Citizenship Studies*, 24(3), 277–300.

Gibney, Matthew J (2020) 'Has the world learned the lessons of the 2015 refugee crisis?', *World Politics Review*, March.

Godin, Marie (2020) 'Far from a burden, EU migrants as pioneers of a European social protection system from below', *International Migration Journal*, special issue, 58(1), 136–150.

Godin, Marie (with G. Donà) (2020) 'Rethinking transit zones: migrant trajectories and transnational networks in techno-borderscapes', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, doi:10.1080/1369183X.2020.1804193.

Godin, Marie (with G. Donà) (2020) 'The Displaces project: Bringing to light less visible narratives created by forced migrants that are about, in and beyond displacement', ESPMI Network, <https://espmi-network.com/giorgia-dona-and-marie-godin-dissemination-methods/>

Irfan, Anne (2020) 'Palestine at the UN: the PLO and UNRWA in the 1970s', *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 49(2), 26–47.

Irfan, Anne (2020) 'Palestinian refugees from Syria and their fate in Europe', *Agency and Tutelage in Forced Migration*, ROR-n Plattform, 2(1), 64–71.

Omata, Naohiko (2020) 'Refugee livelihoods: a comparative analysis of Nairobi and Kakuma Camp in Kenya', *Disasters*, doi: 10.1111/disa.12451

Özkul, Derya (2020) 'Participatory research: still a one-sided research agenda?', *Migration Letters*, 17(2), 229–237.

Özkul, Derya (with T. Fakhoury) (2019) 'Syrian refugees' return from Lebanon', *Forced Migration Review*, 62, 26–28.

Özkul, Derya (2019) 'The making of a transnational religion: Alevi Movement in Germany and the World Alevi Union', *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 46(2), 259–273.

Pincock, Kate, Betts, Alexander, and Easton-Calabria, Evan (2020) 'The rhetoric and reality of localisation: refugee-led organisations in humanitarian governance', *The Journal of Development Studies* (published online 24 August).

Rodgers, Cory (2020) 'The 'host' label: forming and transforming a community identity at the Kakuma Refugee Camp', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 10.1093/jrs/fez109.

Rodgers, Cory (2020) 'Review of Little Mogadishu: Eastleigh, Nairobi's Global Somali Hub, by Neil Carrier', *Migration & Society*, 3, 319–320.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2019) 'Beyond the boxes: Refugee shelter and the humanitarian politics of life', *American Ethnologist*, doi: 10.1111/amet.12833

Scott-Smith, Tom (2019) 'Places for people: architecture, building, and humanitarian innovation', *Journal of Humanitarian Affairs*, doi: 10.7227/JHA.021.

Sterck, Olivier (2019) 'Beyond the stars', *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 33(5), 1409–1436.

Sterck, Olivier (2020) 'Fighting for votes: theory and evidence on the causes of electoral violence', *Economica*, 87, 844–883.

Zetter, Roger (2019) 'Theorising the refugee humanitarian-development nexus: a political-economy analysis', *Journal of Refugee Studies*, doi: 10.1093/jrs/fez070.

Zetter, Roger (2020) 'Refugee crises: an archetype for crisis studies', *Global Discourse*, doi: 10.1332/204378920X15809957963751.

Papers and reports

Betts, Alexander, Bradenbrink, Raphael, Greenland, Jonathan, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier (2019) 'Nolosh Dhaqaale ee Qaxootiga ku Noo Dollo Ado' [Somali translation of 'Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado'], Refugee Studies Centre.

Betts, Alexander, Delius, Antonia, Rodgers, Cory, Sterck, Olivier, and Stierna, Maria (2019) 'Doing Business in Kakuma: Refugees, Entrepreneurship, and the Food Market', Refugee Studies Centre.

Betts, Alexander, Fryszer, Leon, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier (2019) 'Refugee Economies in Addis Ababa: Towards Sustainable Opportunities for Urban Communities', Refugee Studies Centre.

Betts, Alexander, Bradenbrink, Raphael, Greenland, Jonathan, Omata, Naohiko, and Sterck, Olivier (2019) 'Refugee Economies in Dollo Ado: Development Opportunities in a Border Region of Ethiopia', Refugee Studies Centre.

Betts, Alexander, Omata, Naohiko, Rodgers, Cory, Sterck, Olivier, and Stierna, Maria (2019) 'The Kalobeyei Model: Towards Self-Reliance for Refugees?', Refugee Studies Centre.

Betts, Alexander, Marden, Andonis, Bradenbrink, Raphael, and Kaufmann, Jonas (2020) 'Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado', Refugee Studies Centre.

Omata, Naohiko (2019) 'Uganda's Refugee Policy: Recent Trends and Challenges' (In German), Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

Sterck, Olivier (with C. MacPherson) (2019) 'Humanitarian Versus Development Aid for Refugees: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design', CSAE Working Paper WPS/2019-15, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Sterck, Olivier and Delius, Antonia (2020) 'Cash transfers and micro-enterprise performance: theory and quasi-experimental evidence from Kenya', CSAE Working Paper WPS/2020-08, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Sterck, Olivier, Rodgers, Cory, Siu, Jade, Stierna, Maria, and Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Cash Transfer Models and Debt in the Kalobeyei Settlement', Refugee Studies Centre.

RSC Research in Brief Series

Rodriguez, Anne-Line (2019) *Exploring assumptions behind 'voluntary' returns from North Africa*, RSC Research in Brief 13.

Cole, Georgia (2019) *Avoiding refugee status and alternatives to asylum*, RSC Research in Brief 14.

RSC Working Paper Series

Omata, Naohiko and **Habash**, Dunya (with N. Abdo) Integration of resettled Syrian refugees in Oxford: preliminary study in 2018. No. 129, September 2019.

Jain, Vanshaj Ravi. Frozen frontier: uti possidetis and the decolonization of South Asia. No. 130, October 2019.

Gorlick, Brian. The Rohingya refugee crisis: rethinking solutions and accountability. No. 131, December 2019.

Montoya, Emma. Perverse incentives: an analysis of the border-management industry in the United States. No. 132, February 2020.

Selected presentations

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2020) Chair at 'Hegemonic Narratives: Global, national and local dynamics of memory politics in (post)conflict societies', University of Oxford, May.

Bachleitner, Kathrin (2020) 'The Sources of Values-based Behaviour among States: The example of European responses to the Refugee Crisis', European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) conference, University of Innsbruck (online), August.

Betts, Alexander (2019) 'The Political Economy of Refugee Self-Reliance', RSC Public Seminar, October.

Betts, Alexander (2019) 'Changing Public Narratives on Refugees', joint presentation with Ola Rosling of Gapminder, Global Refugee Forum, Geneva, December (side event).

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Global Migration: the Big Picture', keynote at the Global Migration Symposium, Boca Grande, Florida, January.

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Building Refugee Economies: An evaluation of the IKEA Foundation's programmes in Dollo Ado', UNHCR (remote), March.

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Refugee-Led Organisations During Covid-19', Oxford-LSE Development Studies Seminar, May.

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Refugees, the Pandemic, and Global Recession', Save the Children, May (policy briefing).

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'What We Get Wrong About Refugees', IKEA Foundation Webinar, Joint Presentation with Ola Rosling of Gapminder Foundation, June.

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Refugees, Rights, and Dignity Under Covid-19', Somerville College, World Refugee Day Event, June (panel).

Betts, Alexander (2020) 'Refugees and Covid-19', York Refugee Action, Refugee Week Lecture, June.

Bridgick, Catherine (2020) 'The Role of Due Diligence in Holding States Responsible for Violence in Migration Control', address to the 9th Annual Cambridge International Law Conference, April 2020.

Chatty, Dawn (2019) 'The Global Compact of 2018 and the Syrian humanitarian crisis of 2015', keynote, Bilgi University, Istanbul, November.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Syria: Its past, present, and future', keynote at Saïd Rhodes forum, Rhodes House, Oxford, February.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Of refuge and refugees in the Levant: the making and unmaking of Syria', lecture, English Speaking Union, Salisbury Branch, February.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Refuge and refugees in the Middle East', lecture, Migration Mobilities and the Global Insecurities Centre, University of Bristol, February.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Syrians seeking sanctuary: regional and international responses', Trinity Global Development Society, Trinity College, Dublin, February.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'Syria and the making and unmaking of a refuge state', United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, Webex Event, May.

Chatty, Dawn (2020) 'A Post-Imperial lens on forced migration', keynote lecture, Istanbul Commerce University, a Webex Event, July.

Costello, Cathryn (2019) 'Refugees' Right to Work - Why so Elusive?', Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin, September.

Costello, Cathryn and **Özkul**, Derya (2019) 'Refugee recognition without protection? The paradoxes of recognition in the Global South', Recognising Refugees Workshop, WZB Berlin Social Science Centre, Berlin, December.

Costello, Cathryn (2019) 'Avoiding Human Rights Violations by International Organisations: Lessons from Beyond the Migration Control Context', workshop on Externalisation of Borders and the Role of IOM, University of Roma Tre, Rome, December.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) Presentation 'Rule of Law, Authoritarian Legalism and Refugees', panel on Migrants' Rights and the Rule of Law, Conference 'Is Europe Losing its Democratic Compass?', Hasselt University and Lund University, Lund, February.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) Presentation on Webinar 'Human Rights of Migrants, COVID 19 and the ECHR', Hertie School and University of Liverpool, June.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) 'Human Rights and Refugee Law during COVID-19', Oxford Development Talks, Oxford Department of International Development, July.

Costello, Cathryn (2020) Panel on 'The Global Compacts for Migration and on Refugees: current challenges', Conference on Flucht, Governance, Menschenrechte, Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg, July.

Dirik, Dilar (2019) 'Empowerment or Revolution!', departmental lecture, Department of Sociology Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, October.

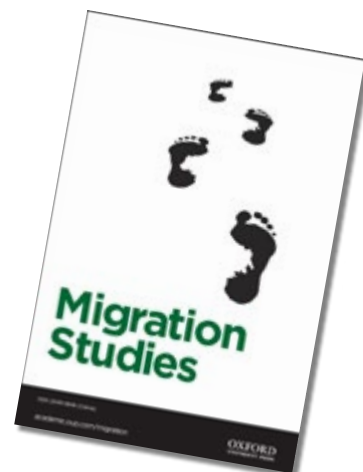
Dirik, Dilar (2019) 'Towards a New Internationalism: Perspectives of the Kurdish freedom movement', keynote, Transnational Institute of Social Ecology Conference, Athens, October.

Dirik, Dilar (2019) 'The Turkish state's military operation in Northern Syria: a discussion with members of the Kurdish community in Oxford', Refugee Studies Centre, November.

Dirik, Dilar (2019) 'Radical Democratic Struggles in Kurdistan', paper presentation, 'Democracy: Genealogies, Concepts, Practices' conference at the University of Western Cape, South Africa, December.

Dirik, Dilar (2019) 'The Native and the Refugee' film screening, followed by a Q&A with one of the directors, Oxford Department of International Development, December.

Dirik, Dilar (2020) 'Exiled' the Rohingya film screening, Q&A with the director (co-organised with Oxford University South Asian Society), Oxford Department of International Development, March.





- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) Panel: The Turkish state's military operation in Northern Syria, The Centre for International Studies & Diplomacy, SOAS.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) 'Kurdish women's knowledge of the state: from guerrilla to the refugee camp', RSC Public Seminar Series, March.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) Moderator, webinar on 'Democratic Confederalism: Construction and Resistance!', co-organised by Civaka Azad Kurdish Information Office and Ceni Kurdish Women's Office for Peace.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) Co-organiser and moderator, panel on 'The Politics of Prison's: Women's Critiques and Alternatives', organised by Ceni Kurdish Women's Office for Peace.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) Moderator, joint online press conference with co-presidents of the Makhmour Refugee Camp's people's assembly, the co-presidents of the Qandil mountain community, and the co-presidents of the democratic self-administration of Sinjar, following the Turkish army's airstrikes around the area of these communities in June 2020. Co-organised by Civaka Azad Kurdish Information Office and Ceni Kurdish Women's Office for Peace.
- Dirik, Dilar** (2020) Moderator, online event with Ilham Ahmed, President of the Executive Council of the Syrian Democratic Council on 'What is next for the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria?'
- Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2019) Speaker, Regional Peer Learning Event, Cities and Migration: Local Initiatives and Global Agendas, Cities Alliance, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Bern, September.
- Easton-Calabria, Evan** (2019) Speaker, Global Meeting on Migration and the 2030 Agenda: Cities as Drivers for Sustainable Development, SDC Network Migration and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Zurich, November.
- Gibney, Matthew J** (2019) 'Banishment and the prehistory of legitimate expulsion power', Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, Melbourne University Law School, September.

Gibney, Matthew J (2019) 'Cooperation Duties of Refugees', plenary, Workshop on Building Institutional Capacity for Regional Migration Governance, Department of Political Science, Melbourne University, September.

Gibney, Matthew J (2020) 'The philosophy and politics of immigration detention', Forum for Philosophy, London School of Economics, February.

Gibney, Matthew J (2020) Launch of the Principles on Nationality Deprivation, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Amsterdam, March.

Gibney, Matthew J (2020) 'Should we abolish immigration control?', Oxford Development Talks series, Oxford Department of International Development, June.

Godin, Marie (2019) 'Forced Migrants in Transit: Mobile technologies and technoborderscapes', Plenary Session IV: Technology and People on the Move, The Migration Conference 2019, Bari, June. (co-authored paper with Giorgia Donà)

Godin, Marie (2019) Best paper award senior scholar: 'Reversing the gaze on Fortress Europe: Visual interferences produced by migrants in transit at the France-UK border' (with Giorgia Donà and Crispin Hughes), Digital Fortress Europe Conference: Exploring Boundaries between Media, Migration and Technology, Brussels, ECREA Diaspora Migration Media Section, October.

Godin, Marie (2019) 'Mobile digital technologies and migrants in transit: negotiating techno-borderscapes', Mobility and Migration Research Day COMPAS/Migration and Mobility Network, December. (co-authored paper with Giorgia Donà)

Irfan, Anne (2019) 'The relationship between UNRWA and Palestinian refugees', conference on UNRWA at 70, Exeter University, November.

Irfan, Anne (2019) 'Palestinian history and politics from Balfour to Oslo', workshop on Palestinian Human Rights, Mekan organisation, SOAS, University of London, November.

Irfan, Anne (2019) 'Refugee "citizenship" under the UN regime: UNRWA and the Palestinians', conference on Negotiating Displacement, NIOD Institute, Amsterdam, December.

Irfan, Anne (2020) 'Rethinking revolution through the Palestinian thawra in Lebanon', workshop at LSE Middle East Centre, London, February.

Omata, Naohiko (2019) 'Integration of resettled Syrian refugees in Oxford' (in collaboration with Oxford City Council), Rosehill Oxford, Public Dissemination Event, September.

Omata, Naohiko (2019) 'The "private" sphere of integration? Reconfiguring gender and parental roles within Syrian refugee families in Oxford', RESPOND Conference 2019, Unpacking the Challenges and Possibilities for Migration Governance, University of Cambridge, October.

Özkul, Derya (2019) 'Syrian refugees in Lebanon and their wish to return to "New Syria"', Workshop on 'Identities in Times of Conflict and Displacement. The Case of Syria', Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, November.

Rodgers, Cory (2019) 'Uncertainty, Fear, and Flight during Digital Registration at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya', conference paper, 3rd Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa, United States International University (USIU) in Nairobi, October.

Rodgers, Cory (2020) 'What Does "Social Cohesion" Mean for Refugees and Hosts? A view from Kenya', COMPAS Seminar Series on Refugees and Host Communities: Perspectives, Evidence and Thinking, University of Oxford, January.

Rodgers, Cory (2020) 'Opportunities and Challenges of Refugee Integration in Kenya', seminar, Human Security Division Brown Bag Lunch, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern, January.

Scott-Smith, Tom (2019) 'Cycles of Emptiness: Examining the Remains of the Calais Jungle', symposium on Emptiness: Practices, Experiences, Meanings, and Sensibilities, University of Oxford, December.

Zetter, Roger (2019) 'The Mistaken Label of the Climate Refugee Crisis', invited lecture, Symposium on Critical Explorations of Crisis, Pufendorf Centre, University of Lund, October.

Zetter, Roger (2020) 'Climate Change, Population Displacement and the Four "R's" – Rights, Resilience, Resettlement, Restitution', keynote lecture, Symposium on Climate Change and Population Displacement, Finnish Red Cross, Helsinki, January.

Zetter, Roger (2020) Expert witness presenting evidence on the implications of climate change on migration ahead of COP26, EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee, House of Lords, March.

Zetter, Roger (2020) 'Covid-19 pandemic and the spectral presence of migrant workers and refugees', discussant, IWM (Institute for Human Sciences), University of Vienna and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata, June.

Zetter, Roger (2020) 'A World on the Move – Migration dynamics and public policy challenges in the 21st century', keynote, Annual Conference of the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Barcelona, July.

Conferences and workshops

Identities in Times of Conflict and Displacement: The Case of Syria
Workshop convened by Dr Kathrin Bachleitner, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, 29 November 2019

Recognising Refugees
Workshop convened by Professor Cathryn Costello and Dr Derya Özkul, 12 December 2019

Public Seminar Series

Michaelmas term 2019

Convenors: Professor Matthew Gibney, Professor Cathryn Costello, and Professor Tom Scott-Smith

The political economy of refugee self-reliance
Professor Alexander Betts (Refugee Studies Centre)
16 October

Postcolonial boundaries, self-determination and the Rohingya refugee crisis
Dr Mohammad Shahabuddin (University of Birmingham)
23 October

A human right to international freedom of movement
Dr Sarah Fine (King's College London)
6 November

Humanitarian wearables and digital bodies: problems of gifts and labour
Professor Kristin Sandvik (University of Oslo)
13 November

Continuums of exploitation – the legal framework on trafficking in persons
Professor Siobhan Mullally (National University of Ireland, Galway)
20 November

Third World Approaches to International Law: a retrospective with some implications for refugee and migration law
Professor Antony Anghie (University of Utah)
4 December

Hilary term 2020

Feminism, Categorisation and Forced Migration

Convenor: Dr Catherine Briddick

Kurdish women's knowledge of the state: from the guerrilla to the refugee camp
Dr Dilar Dirik (Refugee Studies Centre and Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford)
22 January

Degradation by design: corrosive control in the lives of women seeking asylum in bordered Britain
Dr Victoria Canning (University of Bristol)
5 February

Colonial mobilities and global inequality: why European settlers ought not to be regarded as migrants
Professor Gurinder K Bhambra (University of Sussex)
12 February

Forced migration in the United Kingdom: women's journeys to escape domestic violence
Dr Janet Bowstead (Royal Holloway, University of London)
19 February

Trinity term 2020

#ByRefugees: Strengthening refugee-led humanitarian response during the COVID-19 pandemic

Convenors: Alexander Betts and Andonis Marden (Refugee Studies Centre) and Shaza Al Rihawi, Anila Noor, Najeeba Wazefadost and Mustafa Alio (Global Refugee-Led Network)

Global agenda setting, from the bottom up: the Global Refugee-Led Network (GRN)
Mustafa Alio (Jumpstart Refugee Talent, Canada), **Shaza Al Rihawi** (GRN, Germany), **Anila Noor** (GRN, Netherlands), and **Najeeba Wazefadost** (GRN and Asia Pacific Network of Refugees, Australia)
6 May

Without recognition, without assistance: refugee-led responses in urban contexts
Bahati Ghislain (Kintsugi, Nairobi), **Robert Hakiza** (Young African Refugees for Integral Development, Kampala), and **Janemary Ruhundwa** (Dignity Kwanza, Dar es Salaam)
13 May

New partnerships: how international organisations can support refugee-led organisations
Dana Al Anzy (Civil Society and NGO Division, UNHCR, Geneva) and **Edmund Page** (Xavier Project, Kenya & Uganda)
20 May



Rapid response to funding gaps: philanthropic support for refugee-led initiatives

Anna Crowley (Open Society Foundation, London), **Annemieke de Jong** (Refugee Livelihoods Programme, IKEA Foundation, Leiden), and **Anders Knudsen** (DEMAC Initiative, Danish Refugee Council, Copenhagen)
27 May

Limited room to manoeuvre: refugee-led responses in camp settings
Nhial Deng (Refugee Youth Peace Ambassadors, Kakuma camp, Kenya), **Innocent Magambi** (There is Hope, Dzaleka camp, Malawi), and **Samuel Ouma Mijwang'a** (Kenya Red Cross Society, Dadaab camp, Kenya)
10 June

Affecting change from within: refugees in international humanitarian organisations
Joelle Hangi (UNHCR Regional Bureau in the East, Horn, and Great Lakes Regions of Africa, Nairobi), **Bahati Ernestine Hategekimana** (UNHCR Kenya Country Office, Nairobi), and **Foni Joyce** (UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council, Nairobi)
17 June

Special seminars and lectures

The Turkish state's military operation in Northern Syria: discussion with members of the Kurdish community in Oxford
Dr Dilar Dirik (Refugee Studies Centre) with the Oxford Kurdish Association and Kurd-Akad
7 November

A film discussion evening on Shelter Without Shelter
Professor Tom Scott-Smith (Refugee Studies Centre) and **Dr Mark E Breeze** (University of Cambridge)
18 November

The Native and the Refugee | Film Screening and Discussion
Matt Peterson (Director), **Malek Rasamny** (Director) and **Dr Dilar Dirik** (Refugee Studies Centre)
13 December

Book launch: Palestinian Refugees in International Law | Middle East Centre and RSC Event

Lex Takkenberg (UNRWA) and **Francesca Albanese** (Institute for the Study of International Migration)
7 February

Exiled: The Plight of Rohingya Refugees | Screening and Discussion with the Director
Shahida Tulaganova (Director)
6 March

Public lectures

Annual Harrell-Bond Lecture 2019
The Map is Not the Territory: Story-making, Place and Performance
Dame Marina Warner (University of Oxford/Birkbeck, University of London),
30 October 2019

Annual Elizabeth Colson Lecture 2020

Mobility and Immobility in the Time of Coronavirus: Reflections from Long-Term Study of Migration and Displacement
Professor Laura Hammond (SOAS, University of London), 24 June 2020

Visiting Fellows

Student Visitors

Diego Caballero Vélez, Spain
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies of Pisa
Member States contribution to refugee protection provision in the EU: a public goods perspective
Academic contact: Professor Alexander Betts

Morgan Etzel, Germany
Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich
Localized integration: Syrian refugee experience with German bureaucracy
Academic contact: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Matthew Porges, UK
University of St Andrews
Multilocality and refugee-nomad interchange in northern Mauritania
Academic contact: Professor Dawn Chatty

Visiting Research Fellows

Saija Niemi, Finland
University of Helsinki
Theory of control tuning
Academic contact: Professor Roger Zetter

Kate Ogg, Australia
Australian National University
Seeking protection from a place of refuge: refugees as the modern day Tantalus
Academic contact: Professor Cathryn Costello

Doctoral research students

Jennifer Barrett, St Catherine's College
Navigating the Deputisation of Immigration Enforcement Functions in the UK
Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Bridget Anderson (University of Bristol)

Francesco Bosso, St Antony's College
The Borders of the *Rechtsstaat*: The Legal Politics of Immigration in post-2015 Germany
Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

Rebecca Buxton, St John's College
Refugees, Exile and Political Membership
Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

Faith Cowling, Brasenose College
An Exploration of Gender in Humanitarian Practice in Lebanon
Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Dr Georgia Cole (University of Cambridge)

Imogen Dobie, Lincoln College
Maritime Humanitarianism: The Provision of Humanitarian Aid at Sea 1978-2019
Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Richard Dolan, St Antony's College
Ethnicity, Education and Ethno-nationalism: Constructing and Contesting Identity within Union Karen
Supervisor: Professor Dawn Chatty

Myfanwy James, St John's College
Humanitarian Negotiation Cultures: An Exploration of the Processes, Practices and Cultures of Gaining and Maintaining Access to Areas Controlled by Armed Groups in North Kivu
Supervisors: Professor Tom Scott-Smith and Professor John Gledhill (ODID)

Diletta Lauro, Lincoln College
Resolving the Tension Between Human Rights and National Belonging? Anti-Deportation Campaigns in the United Kingdom and Emerging Conceptions of Membership
Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

Chloe Marshall-Denton, Harris Manchester College
Politics of Invisibility: UNHCR and the (In)visibility of Displaced Libyans on the Northern and Southern Shores of the Mediterranean
Supervisors: Professor Matthew J Gibney and Professor Ruben Andersson (ODID)

Emilie McDonnell, University College
The Human Right to Leave Any Country and Migration Control
Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Miles Jackson (Oxford Law Faculty)

Muireann Meehan Speed, St Antony's College
Global Migration Governance: The Management of 'Rights'?
Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Matthew J Gibney

Lauren Nishimura, St Edmund Hall
Climate Refugees
Supervisors: Professor Cathryn Costello and Professor Catherine Redgwell (Oxford Law Faculty)

Janak Padhir, Jesus College
Advancing Life Course Geographies of Young Afghan Refugees in Contemporary India
Supervisors: Professor Naohiko Omata and Dr Fiona McConnell (School of Geography and Environment)

Blair Peruniak, St Edmund Hall
A Republican Theory of Asylum
Supervisor: Professor Matthew J Gibney

Angela Pilath, St Antony's College
The Politics of Environmental Displacement: Epistemic Actors and their Mechanisms of Influence
Supervisors: Professor Alexander Betts and Professor Roger Zetter

Samuel Ritholtz, Exeter College
Paramilitary Violence Against Vulnerable Communities During the Colombian Civil War
Supervisor: Professor Alexander Betts

Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen, Linacre College
Renewable Energy and Refugees: Actors, Networks and Agency in the Humanitarian Energy Sector
Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Greta Semplici, Lady Margaret Hall
Moving Deserts, The Resilience Challenge: Stories of Mobilities from a Kenyan Desertscape in Turkana County
Supervisors: Professor Naohiko Omata and Dr Oliver Bakewell (University of Manchester)

Claire Walkey, St Anne's College
Building a Bureaucracy: The Transfer of Responsibility for Refugee Affairs from the United Nations Refugee Agency to the Government of Kenya
Supervisor: Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Income and expenditure

Statement 1. Refugee Studies Centre income and expenditure, 2019–20 (1 August–31 July)

Reserve balances	Actuals 2018–19 (£)	Actuals 2019–20 (£)
Opening reserves brought forward	118,313	212,112

Revenue ¹	Actuals 2018–19 (£)	Actuals 2019–20 (£)
Restricted project income		
Research grant revenue ²	724,414	792,277
Partner contributions	194,746	20,588
Forced Migration Review ³	235,801	201,112
Other revenue		
Overheads from research projects and awards	164,706	75,696
Other income (e.g. donations, publication royalties, institutional consultancies) ⁴	34,423	31,064
Workshops, conferences, short courses, and Visiting Fellowships (total revenue)	98,044	41,799
International Summer School in Forced Migration	261,525	3,375
Transfer from Trust Fund Reserves to support administrative staff costs	47,000	104,398
Total revenue	1,760,660	1,270,308

Expenditure	Actuals 2018–19 (£)	Actuals 2019–20 (£)
Research grant expenditure (including research staff salaries)⁵	939,454	824,024
Core administrative staff salary costs	94,383	93,366
Other core administrative expenses	10,434	6,142
Workshops, conferences, short courses, public lectures, and Visiting Fellowships	84,097	23,299
International Summer School in Forced Migration	228,975	50,153
Outreach and dissemination		
Forced Migration Review (including FMR staff salaries)	235,801	201,112
Other publications, communications, and outreach activities	73,717	62,033
Total expenditure	1,666,861	1,260,129

Closing balances	Actuals 2018–19 (£)	Actuals 2019–20 (£)
Surplus/deficit after consolidation	93,799	10,179
Closing reserves carried forward	212,112	222,290

Statement 2. Performance of endowments

Endowments ⁶	Actuals 2018–19 (£)	Actuals 2019–20 (£)
Opening revenue account balance	510,630	519,752
Endowment income (dividends from shares and deposit pool interest)	235,694	249,406
Endowment expenditure (salary costs and management fees)	-226,572	-252,425
Closing revenue account balance	519,752	516,733
Capital account balance	3,098,825	3,098,923

¹ Total revenue – encompassing the Centre's activities – amounts to £2.453m. This figure is inclusive of endowment income (£249,406) and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies course fees (£443,560).

² Research grant revenue and partner contributions are reported as earned only when project expenditure is incurred.

³ Forced Migration Review's total receipts during 2019–20 were £230,560. At the end of the year the project held £79,458 earmarked for activities in the 2020–21 financial year.

⁴ Deferred donation balances were £166,500 as at 31 July 2020. These donations include funding restricted for MSc student scholarship bursaries and hardship funds.

⁵ The salaries of the Centre's four permanent academic staff members are paid for through Oxford Department of International Development accounts, drawing upon both endowment revenue and MSc teaching income.

⁶ The Refugee Studies Centre is the beneficiary of several endowment funds, which are managed by the Oxford Department of International Development. As at 31 July 2020, revenue balances stood at £516,733. The related Capital Balances were £3.098m.

Staff and associates

ACADEMIC STAFF

Dr Kathrin Bachleitner

IKEA Research Fellow in International Relations

Professor Alexander Betts

Leopold Muller Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs, and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2014–2017; Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division

Raphael Bradenbrink*

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

Dr Catherine Briddick

Martin James Departmental Lecturer in Gender and Forced Migration

Professor Cathryn Costello

Andrew W Mellon Professor of Refugee and Migration Law; Professor of Fundamental Rights and Co-Director, Centre for Fundamental Rights, Hertie School, Berlin

Dr Dilar Dirik

Joyce Pearce Junior Research Fellow

Dr Evan Easton-Calabria

Senior Research Officer

Professor Matthew J Gibney

Elizabeth Colson Professor of Politics and Forced Migration
Director, Refugee Studies Centre

Dr Marie Godin

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr Anne Irfan

Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration

Jonas Kaufmann*

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

Dr Caroline Nalule

Research Officer, Refugees are Migrants

Professor Naohiko Omata

Associate Professor

Dr Derya Özkul

Research Officer, Refugees are Migrants

Dr Cory Rodgers

Pedro Arrupe Research Fellow in Forced Migration Studies

Professor Tom Scott-Smith

Associate Professor of Refugee Studies and Forced Migration

Dr Angela Sherwood

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Refugees are Migrants

Jade Siu

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

Dr Olivier Sterck

Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer

Maria Flinder Stierna

Research Assistant, Refugee Economies Programme

EMERITUS

Professor Dawn Chatty

Emerita Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2011–2014

Dr David Turton

Emeritus Reader and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 1997–2001

Professor Roger Zetter

Emeritus Professor and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, 2006–2010

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH STAFF

Marion Couldrey

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

Sharon Ellis

Forced Migration Review, Assistant

Tamsin Kelk

Communications and Information Coordinator

Annelies Lawson

Events and International Summer School Officer

Jenny Peebles

Forced Migration Review, Co-editor

Sarah Rhodes

Forced Migration, African and Commonwealth Subject Consultant

Maureen Schoenfeld

Promotion and Finance Assistant, Forced Migration Review

Joanna Soedring

Senior Library Assistant, Reader Services/Refugee Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Isabelle Aires*

Project Coordinator, Refugee Economies

Madison Bakewell

Project Coordinator, Refugee Economies

Eliya Beachy

Administrative and Events Assistant

Phil Dines*

Project Officer

Felicity Leary

Centre Manager

Laurence Medley

Accounts Officer

Andrea Smith

Postgraduate Courses Coordinator

Bryony Varnam

ERC Project Administrator

* Left in 2019–2020

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Dr Jeff Crisp

Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Professor Michelle Foster

Director, Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, Melbourne Law School

Dr Josiah Kaplan

Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF

Dr Ulrike Krause

Junior Professor for Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, Osnabrück University

Dr Maryanne Loughry

Associate Director, Jesuit Refugee Service Australia

Professor Jane McAdam

Scientia Professor of Law and Director, Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales

Dr Kirsten McConnachie

Associate Professor in Law, School of Law, University of East Anglia

Dr James Milner

Associate Professor of Political Science, Carleton University

Professor Alessandro Monsutti

Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Dr Jason Pobjoy

Barrister, Blackstone Chambers

Abbas Shiblak

Director, Palestinian Diaspora and Refugee Center (SHAML)

Professor Nando Sigona

Professor of International Migration and Forced Displacement, and Director, Institute for Research into Superdiversity, University of Birmingham

Professor Eftihia Voutira

Professor of the Anthropology of Forced Migration, University of Macedonia

Dr Tom Western

Lecturer in Social and Cultural Geography, University College London

Dr Reuven Ziegler

Associate Professor in International Refugee Law, University of Reading, School of Law

OXFORD ASSOCIATES

Professor Renée Hirschon

Senior Research Fellow, St Peter's College

Dr Nick Van Hear

Senior Researcher, COMPAS

HONORARY ASSOCIATES

Professor Jan Egeland

Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council

Professor Guy S Goodwin-Gill

Emeritus Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford; Professor of Law and Deputy Director, Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales

Filippo Grandi

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Refugee Studies Centre

Oxford Department of International Development
University of Oxford, 3 Mansfield Road
Oxford, OX1 3TB, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1865 281720
Email: rsc@qeh.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.rsc.ox.ac.uk

